

25p



VIEW FROM AMBRIDGE

How the everyday folk of Ardenland see the rural White Paper. **PAGE 15**



INTERFACE

The most wired-up town in Britain, Infotech section



BEAUTY IN THE EYE

How lasers can get rid of dark circles
DR TOM STUTTAFORD, P6

25p

THE TIMES

No. 65,401

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18 1995

MPs to debate sacking of jail chief

Labour steps up pressure on Howard

By Philip Webster Political Editor and Richard Ford

LABOUR increased the pressure for Michael Howard's resignation yesterday when he was accused of being "less than frank" to the Commons over the management of Britain's jails. He will be pressed further today when the Opposition stages an emergency debate on the Prisons Service.

Tony Blair challenged the Home Secretary's claim that he did not interfere in the day-to-day running of the service, alleging that he had personally intervened after the Parkhurst escape in January and demanded the suspension of the governor, John Marriott.

Mr Blair also alleged that when Derek Lewis, the head of the service who was dismissed on Monday, objected that this was an "operational" matter, Mr Howard threatened to instruct him to do it. Labour sources went further and claimed that a senior Home Office official had told Mr Lewis that if he refused he would be sacked.

The Home Office later denied Mr Blair's version of events, which is understood to have been based on information supplied by Mr Lewis and Liz Symons, general secretary of the First Division Association, of which he is a member.

It said: "The Home Secretary did not tell Mr Lewis that the Governor of Parkhurst should be suspended immediately. The Home Secretary did not threaten to instruct Mr Lewis to suspend the Governor of Parkhurst. And the Home Secretary did not announce to the House of Commons that afternoon that the Governor of Parkhurst had been suspended."



John Marriott dispute over his suspension

been suspended. Mr Marriott was moved to other duties in the Prison Service.

But the union said the Home Office statement was "misleading and misleading", and it intends to challenge it on Mr Lewis's behalf today.

In the Commons, Mr Howard was strongly defended by the Prime Minister, who told Mr Blair that whatever action he took was "entirely proper" and within his remit as Home Secretary answerable to this House.

But across Parliament Square, nearly 200 prison governors jeered another Home Office minister as he erupted at a meeting designed to restore morale.

Judge Stephen Timmins, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, also joined in the attack on Mr Howard, dismissing his claim that he was not responsible for operational matters. "If you are dividing policy and operations," he means the Home Secretary is not responsible for anything at all. "That means the Home Secretary takes credit but is free of responsibility. It's a bogus distinction."

Labour's key claim against Mr Howard is that although Mr Lewis had decided that Mr Marriott should be moved from Parkhurst after the escape, he was deeply opposed to suspending him. Senior sources maintain that Mr Howard would not be deflected, and they are confident that Mr Lewis would back their version were he asked to appear before the Commons home affairs committee.

Mr Straw said last night: "Mr Howard has been less than frank with the House of Commons about his involvement in operational matters."

Mr Lewis was twice asked on BBC Television on Monday whether he had been made aware that his own job would be at risk if he did not suspend Mr Marriott. Each time he replied that that was a question to put to Mr Howard.

When the question was put to the Home Secretary, he side-stepped it.

The appearance of Ann Widdecombe, the prisons minister, at the managers' meeting in Central Hall, Westminster, surprised many governors still reeling from Mr Lewis's departure. But their hostility turned to derision when she said that Richard Tilt, the acting Director-General, had the full support of Mr Howard and herself.

Her statement was met with jeers and sustained laughter, while one governor stood up and said: "I hope you understand in what low esteem you and Michael Howard are held."



Ann Manning with her daughter Bethan in hospital at Great Yarmouth yesterday

Tourist rescues baby floating down river

By Tim Jones

A BABY girl was safe and well with her family last night after she fell from the waterside garden of her home and was carried for more than a quarter of a mile down a cold and treacherous river.

Police said the fact that little Bethan Manning, 22 months, survived was "frankly, little short of a miracle".

She owes her life to Ralf Wecker, a German tourist, who was on board a holiday cruiser in the Norfolk Broads when he saw what he took to be a piece of cork floating by on the strong tide.



Wecker thought she was a piece of cork

"I saw a face and two tiny hands and I realised it was a child," he said. "I just stripped down to my socks and underpants and dived in. I swam to her but I thought she was dead because she was so cold and not making a sound."

Herr Wecker, 31, added: "The water was really very cold and I am not a strong swimmer, but she was so small it was fairly easy to get her out. I tried to massage warmth into her and turned her over and she started crying. It was only then that we knew she was alive."

Before falling into the River Yare, Bethan had been playing near the bank. Her father, John Manning, 52, said that his daughter told him she had fallen into the water because she was trying to feed the "quack-quacks".

Her mother, Ann Manning, 34, said that she had been keeping a constant eye on the child and had only been distracted for an instant as she did the washing up when she realised Bethan had vanished.

"I spent two minutes frantically looking for her... Then I realised she must have gone into the river and I was certain she was dead," she said from the family cottage at Norton Subcourse, near Reedham in Norfolk.

Mark Wakelin, chief navigation officer of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Authority, said: "She was probably saved because she did not realise what was happening and did not panic."

Blueprint for rural revival

A "new vision" to regenerate the countryside economy was unveiled by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, in a White Paper on rural England.

The paper contains measures to promote rural businesses, preserve village shops and post offices, ensure a supply of cheap rented homes, combat crime and increase the influence of parish councils on planning decisions. **Pages 8, 15, 17**

Mayhew ready to soften arms line

Sir Patrick Mayhew is ready to soften the Government's demand that the IRA decommission its weapons in an attempt to revive the Ulster peace process. The Northern Ireland Secretary said he would consider proposals on the issue from a disarmament commission. **Page 2**

Barings management accused in report

By Robert Miller

THE senior management of Barings in London and Singapore could have prevented the merchant bank's crash if they had been more alert, according to a report on the affair by the Singapore authorities.

The report, commissioned by the Minister of Finance in March and published yesterday, says that, had Barings' management acted even as late as the end of January this year, the accumulated losses would have been contained to about a quarter of the \$860 million that sank the bank.

The report also provides a damning indictment of the way in which Britain's oldest merchant bank was managed.

Senior bank executives are accused of "institutional incompetence" and of discouraging all independent investigations into discrepancies in trading accounts lodged by Nick Leeson, the trader blamed for the crash, from his prison cell in Germany, is fighting attempts to extradite him to Singapore.

The Singapore authorities say they are continuing their investigations into the crash, including "any possible criminal acts by persons in Singapore".

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Names named, page 29

Rebecca and Thomas, names for the Nineties

By Ian Murray

REBECCA and Thomas are the favourite first names for the children of the Nineties.

Thomas has shot into the number one slot without ever having appeared in the top ten, according to figures compiled by government statisticians from registrars' returns.

Rebecca came into the top hundred at 98 in 1964 but has soared ever upward through the charts with each successive decade.

The new list is based on the National Health Service Central Register and looks how fashions have changed down the decades since 1944.

It shows parents have been conservative in choosing a boy's name but have been much readier to experiment when it comes to girls. Only seven names — Sarah, Elizabeth, Jennifer, Catherine, Heather, Helen and Maria — have appeared consistently in the top hundred since 1944.

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It was the key to the mystery.
A letter sent to Chief Inspector Morse — a letter containing a declaration of love...

COLIN DEXTER
THE DAUGHTERS OF CAIN
THE NEW INSPECTOR MORSE NOVEL

OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK
Also available on audio cassette
Read by Kevin Whately

Elections cast long shadow in Cleethorpes

HIS travels over, the summit in Majorca and the Tory Conference in Blackpool behind him, the Prime Minister returned to Westminster yesterday to tackle one of the great issues of our age: yobs on the Cleethorpes seafront.

So anxious were we to move on to this subject at PM's Questions that we fidgeted through a tedious exchange between Mr Major and Tony Blair about the Home Secretary's responsibilities. This ended in the usual messy draw.

Mr Blair had been thrown off his stride when his triumphant stalk into the Chamber was interrupted by David Blunkett's dog Lucy, stretched

out on the carpet under the Opposition Dispatch box. It's hard to pick your way majestically over a sleeping retriever.

Failing to resolve the tricky question of the Home Secretary's powers of the future of our prison service, we turned to the terrorist bomb in France. Equally tricky: MPs failed to resolve that, too. They then looked briefly at the British Constitution but became muddled.

The question from Tony Marlow (C, Northampton N), about Labour's plans for Scottish devolution, sounded like an early bid for leadership of the English National Party. MPs scratched their heads.

Trickier still. Then Labour's Joyce Quinn asked Mr Major



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

to give his opinion of France's nuclear testing. Trickiest of all. He refused. Would somebody please ask the PM a question we could really get our heads round?

Michael Brown (C, Brigg and Cleethorpes) would. Mr Brown (you may remember) is the man who once threatened to resign his seat and force a by-election unless the Government removed Brigg and Cleethorpes from its list of possible burial sites for nuclear waste. The Government dropped the plan.

Yesterday Brown launched a new crusade for Cleethorpes. The MP told the House that a week ago, protected in Blackpool's Winter Gardens by closed-circuit television, he had heard the Prime Minister promise more CCTV in public places in Britain.

"We have a Winter Gardens in Cleethorpes, too," (shouts of 'Hoorsay!') Would the PM pledge now, bellowed Brown, that some of these new CCTVs would find their way to Cleethorpes, to foil the yobs? "Answer!" shouted Labour.

"Speak for Cleethorpes!" Tories cheered. From the tone of Mr Major's reply, I should be surprised if, next time round, the Winter Gardens of the East misses out on CCTV. Major wouldn't dare. With a majority of seven, he cannot run the risk of another by-election.

The very thought of elections casts over Tory MPs the sort of chill a glimpse of the Grim Reaper might excite. For those who have no seats to fight next time, panic is close to the surface.

It was therefore unkind of Cheryl Gillan, a junior minister, to choose the arrival of Norman Lamont yesterday to coo (after a question on ageing): "So many men, so rela-

tively young, are thrown onto a human scrapheap!" Nor was another minister, Eric Forth, wise.

Ever since a neighbouring MP, Peter Luff, made a smash-and-grab raid on what the Boundary Commission left of Mr Forth's old seat, he has been seeking a new one.

The minister was accused yesterday by Denis MacShane (Lab) of ignoring Rotherham. "I've been to many constituencies," Forth exploded, "up and down the country." He did not at first see why everyone was laughing.

Later, smiles lit even Ted Heath's imperious features. Is he cheered by that Times headline, "Wild and cantankerous people live longer?"

Minister resigns after being ordered to rest

Nicholas Baker, the Home Office Minister responsible for immigration, has resigned from the post after receiving medical advice to take "an extended period of rest from ministerial duties". He will continue as MP for Dorset North.

Mr Baker, 56, declined to discuss his medical problem, but said he hoped to be of service to the Government again after a return to health. He was the minister responsible for rejecting applications for British citizenship by Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, and his brother Ali. His replacement will be Timothy Kirkhope, 50, MP for Leeds North East, who moves from the Whip's Office. As a result, Richard Ottaway, Michael Heseltine's long-time Parliamentary Private Secretary, comes into the Government for the first time as a junior whip. Andrew Mackay moves up within the Whip's Office to become Vice-Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household and retains the key job of pausing whip.

Nursery plan shunned

The Government's nursery voucher scheme suffered a setback yesterday as MPs were told that only three authorities had agreed to join the pilot programme next April. Trials of the £1,100 vouchers, due to be available nationally in 1997, were to cover 10 per cent of England, but only Conservative-controlled Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster and Wandsworth will issue vouchers before Easter. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, wanted to test the scheme in 12 authorities.

Abuse case finally closes

The final chapter of the Ayrshire child abuse case closed yesterday when the last of eight children to have been wrongly taken into care was returned to his parents after five years in a home. The parents are expected to claim substantial damages. The Court of Session in Edinburgh was told that the boy was now reintegrated with his family. Three of Scotland's most senior judges ruled in February that the children, aged between five and 15, should not have been taken from their homes.

Water leaks pledge

Water companies have promised to reduce leaks from mains by about 480 million gallons a day. The ten largest water firms wrote to John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, last night promising to reduce leakages of the water they distribute from between 20 and 25 per cent to 15 per cent. The proposal could cost £4 billion, some of which will come from money already committed by the companies to improve the distribution network. Customer bills will not be increased to raise the extra cash.

Temazepam banned

Temazepam, the sleeping drug that has left a number of people dead or maimed, was banned by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, yesterday as part of a government crackdown on drug abuse. Addicts have melted down the gel-filled capsules and injected the fluid, a highly dangerous practice as the gel solidifies in the veins, causing gangrene and forcing doctors to amputate limbs. GPs will still be able to prescribe the less popular tablet and other forms of the drug to those in need.

Birt says sorry

John Birt, right, the Director-General of the BBC, has apologised to Liverpool football supporters after they were portrayed as hooligans in a television trailer for the police drama *Back-up*. The corporation's Programme Complaints Unit yesterday upheld criticisms over the way skinheads were seen dressed in the Liverpool strip, as a voice said: "When football hooligans are about to clash."



Rethink over Bar cash

The Bar may back down on controversial proposals to award compensation for shoddy work, after a warning from criminal-law barristers that the scheme will prompt claims from every convicted defendant. Anne Rafferty, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, has now outlined alternative proposals for a Bar complaints scheme in which people could receive compensation only if they proved actual loss.

Law, pages 37-39

Tories condemn Portillo

About 50 Conservative MPs condemned Michael Portillo's Blackpool speech in which he declared that British troops would never die for Brussels. At a private meeting last night with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, pro-European Tories sought and won indications that there would be no repeat of the Defence Secretary's ferociously sceptical rhetoric. One MP likened the speech to the outpourings of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the fiercely nationalist leader of the opposition in the Russian Parliament.

Crown Court closed

York Crown Court has been forced to shut for a week because there is no judge to hear cases. Defendants, witnesses, jurors and lawyers were told at the last minute that hearings were to be cancelled after a case at another court unexpectedly overran. The judge hearing that case was due to move to Leeds. Judge Myerson, QC, who had been scheduled to sit at York, was moved to take the heavier list at Leeds. The Lord Chancellor's Department said that, despite a search, no judge was available to sit at York.

Blueprint sets the stage for Scots assembly

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE final blueprint for a Scottish parliament, which would come into force in five years if a Labour government is voted into office, was published yesterday.

The Scottish Constitutional Convention (SCC), an alliance of Labour, the Liberal Democrats, the Scottish trade unions and the churches, has taken six years to complete its plans. If the scheme is introduced, it will be the first time since the Act of Union of 1707 that the Scots have run their affairs from Scotland.

The 16-page document envisages a parliament sitting in Edinburgh that would have power over most areas of Scottish life, including education, training, health, local government, industry and legal affairs. But areas such as defence, social security, the economy, foreign affairs and immigration will remain within the control of Westminster.

As widely predicted, the Parliament would have 129 members elected in part by proportional representation. With the exception of the first parliament, members of the Scottish Assembly would not be able to sit in the House of Commons. There would be a

Scottish Cabinet and a "Chief Minister", who would in effect be the Scottish Prime Minister. He or she would be chosen by the entire parliament and not by the party in office. There would also be an "electoral agreement" to ensure equal representation of men and women.

The parliament would have financial autonomy, receive an assigned budget based on Scotland's needs and would have the power to vary the basic rate of income tax in Scotland up or down by a maximum of 3p in the pound. But it would not be able to alter the rate of VAT or change the other taxes set by a Westminster Chancellor.

The SCC said relations with Westminster, Europe and local authorities would be defined on the principle of subsidiarity, which will be embodied in the Act setting up the parliament. The parliament would not have power to prevent its abolition by a future Conservative government.

Voters would have two votes in the Scottish parliament, one for their local MP and one for the party of their choice. The political party will be able to nominate its additional MPs.

Thomas is top name for a 1990s' boy

Continued from page 1

been the most common female choice.

Some have had a short life as the fashionable choice. Tracey arrived at number six in 1964 but had disappeared from the top hundred along with Sharon 20 years later. Elizabeth made her only entry into the top ten in 1954, after the coronation.

Aggressives such as Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, Susan Hayward and Diana Dors had an influence on many parents at the height of their popularity.

Boys may have been named after sporting or screen heroes, but this is less obvious since the range is smaller.

Elvis, Ringo and Englebert never made it.

Regional differences also emerge. Rebecca owes its place at the top to its popularity in the North. Londoners prefer Hannah, while Lauren is favourite in the Midlands. Thomas and Daniel are most popular in the North and Midlands. James and Jack are most common in London and the Home Counties.

Looking ahead, the survey suggests 21st-century boys will include Abdul, Graham, Ian, Kevin and Stewart. The fashionable girl will be Alice, Kary or Christine.

Tony, yet to make it into a decade top ten, is tipped as one to watch for 2000 to 2010.

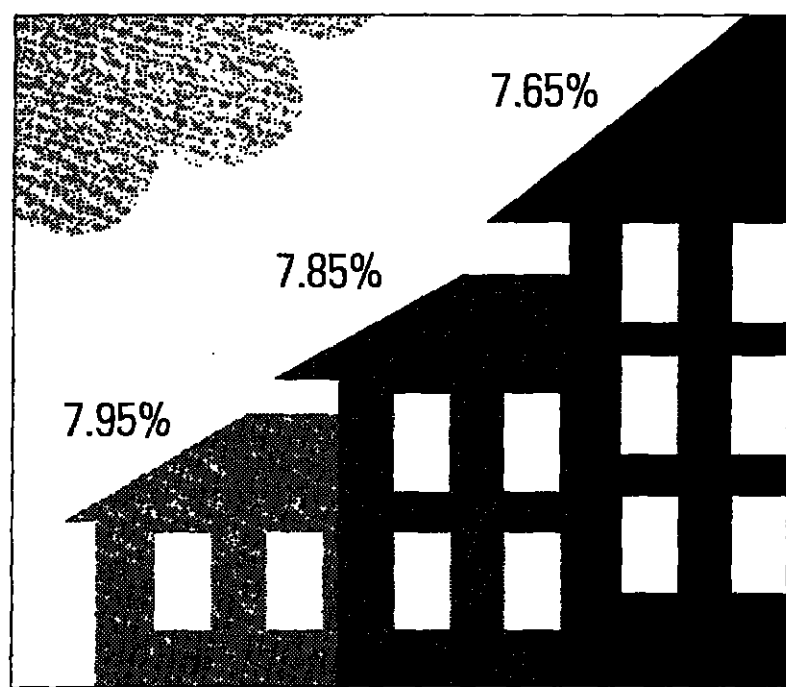
Girls

1964	1964	1974	1984	1994	1994
1 Rebecca	1 Sarah	1 Sarah	1 Susan	1 Susan	1 Margaret
2 Lauren	2 Laura	2 Claire	2 Julie	2 Linda	2 Paula
3 Jessica	3 Emma	3 Emma	3 Julie	3 Christine	3 Christine
4 Charlotte	4 Emma	4 Emma	4 Jacqueline	4 Margaret	4 Margaret
5 Hannah	5 Rebecca	5 Lisa	5 Deborah	5 Janet	5 Janet
6 Sophie	6 Claire	6 Joanna	6 Tracy	6 Pauline	6 Pauline
7 Amy	7 Victoria	7 Michelle	7 Jane	7 Carol	7 Carol
8 Emily	8 Samantha	8 Helen	8 Helen	8 Elizabeth	8 Elizabeth
9 Laura	9 Rachel	9 Samantha	9 Claire	9 Janet	9 Janet
10 Emma	10 Amy	10 Karen	10 Sharon	10 Anne	10 Barbara

Boys

1964	1964	1974	1984	1994	1994
1 Thomas	1 Christopher	1 Paul	1 David	1 David	1 John
2 James	2 James	2 Paul	2 Paul	2 Stephen	2 Michael
3 Jack	3 David	3 Andrew	3 Andrew	3 Mark	3 Michael
4 Daniel	4 Daniel	4 Andrew	4 John	4 Peter	4 Robert
5 Matthew	5 Matthew	5 Richard	5 John	5 Michael	5 Robert
6 Ryan	6 Andrew	6 Christopher	6 Stephen	6 Peter	6 Anthony
7 Joshua	7 James	7 Stephen	7 Ian	7 Alan	7 Alan
8 Luke	8 Richard	8 Simon	8 Ian	8 Alan	8 William
9 Samuel	9 Paul	9 Michael	9 Thomas	9 Christopher	9 William
10 Jordan	10 Mark	10 Matthew	10 Richard	10 Richard	10 James

Typical example of variable rate mortgage: a £100,000 endowment mortgage over 25 years with 12 net monthly repayments of £261.83 at 3.25%, followed by 208 net monthly repayments of £208.61 at 7.65%, and a final payment of £100,000 payable on maturity of a life policy. Total gross amount repayable £268,890.04. In addition to the above figures, premiums for an acceptable endowment policy are payable. All rates and 2.25% APR are variable. All offers subject to availability, security and status. Full details of the free transfer offer are available on request. It does not apply to properties in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. A charge will be taken over the property and appropriate life policies. For written details of Midland's mortgages call 0800 494 999. Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Prudential Supervision Authority and advises only on its own life assurance, pension and unit trusts. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18 1995

Big Country and Queen had both reported Keith Moore for malpractice

Six years for accountant who stole from Sting

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE former accountant of the rock musician Sting was jailed for six years yesterday after a jury found him guilty of stealing £6 million to finance a series of doomed business ventures.

After sentence it was revealed that Keith Moore, 51, had previously been dealt with by his professional disciplinary body for incompetence and professional misconduct over the financial affairs of the pop groups Queen and Big Country.

Judge Gerald Butler, QC, told Moore, of Fulham, south-west London, that a custodial sentence was inevitable. "You have been convicted of a series of offences of theft, carried out in gross breach of trust, of large sums of money which you used to pay your debts and finance a number of highly speculative ventures of your own and which came to grief," he said.

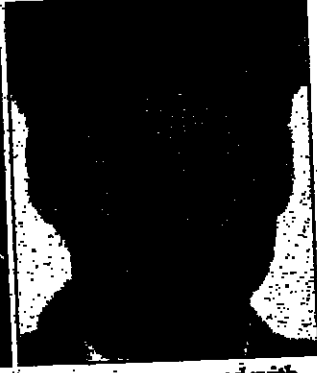
Sting, whose real name Gordon Sumner was used in court, had recovered the greater part of his loss. "That is no thanks to you," Judge Butler told Moore.

The jury at Southwark Crown Court found him guilty of eight specimen charges of theft from Coutts & Co and Lloyds Bank between August 1988 and July 1992. His long-term girlfriend Sanjosh Bangor collapsed in tears as he was led from the dock to begin his sentence.

Sting, 44, continued trusting Moore while Queen and Big Country were both sacking him for slippery financial dealings. Moore continued to work for Sting even after a series of disciplinary hearings



Sting continued to trust Keith Moore



Adamson escaped with only burnt fingers

at the Institute of Chartered Accountants that had been prompted when complaints of professional misconduct were lodged by the groups.

A year after he was first employed by Sting in 1977, the £800,000-a-year accountant was dismissed by Queen for investing some of the band's money in bars and restaurants without their knowledge. Seven years later, Big Country discovered their earnings were almost inaccessible in the complex web of accounts Moore had created.

Moore, who started work at 17 as an articled clerk, qualified when he was 25 and set up the Holland Park based firm Moore Sloane with a friend, David Sloane. Mr Sloane left the firm in 1975. Moore was declared bankrupt in the same year. According to High Court documents, he owes up to £9 million.

Moore Sloane dealt with the accounts of a number of high-profile musicians, including Freddie Mercury and Jools Holland. Stuart Adamson, lead singer with Big Country, said: "Sting's dealings with

Moore wanted to control the whole thing that made me smell a rat."

They were forced to take Moore to the High Court to make him return all their financial statements. "It took us many years to get the books back in order," Mr Grant said. Mr Adamson added: "Eventually we were happy to get out with our fingers burnt."

Queen had experienced similar problems after employing Moore in the early 1970s but sacked him in 1978 after discovering he had invested about £100,000 of their money without their knowledge in bars and restaurants. The cash was finally refunded.

Both groups lodged complaints of professional misconduct to the Institute of Chartered Accountants, one of which led to Moore's temporary dismissal from the register. He was restored in 1979 after paying a £250 fine. He was censured in 1982 for incompetence and fined £200 with £350 costs over a second accusation of misconduct. He was again struck off in 1986 after Big Country complained of incompetence. The sentence was substituted by a reprimand and a fine on appeal.

Sting, who was not in court yesterday, said through his solicitor: "It is not for me to comment on the jury's verdict, except for me to say I am pleased it is all over."

Now 44, Gordon Sumner, whose assets are estimated at



Keith Moore had previously been sacked by other big-selling bands

'I now know what I'm worth'

THE trial established Sting as the man who could lose £6 million and not even notice. He confessed that he liked to keep his financial dealings as private as possible but the four-week trial laid bare the multimillion-pound balance sheets of a milkman's son who once claimed £16 a week income support.

Now 44, Gordon Sumner, whose assets are estimated at

£70 million by *Business Age* magazine, juggles 108 bank accounts and signs income tax bills of £691,000. "It is not an unusual amount for me to pay in tax," he said.

Sting did not realise £6 million was missing until someone wrote and told him. As Neill Stewart, for the prosecution, said, Sting was too busy to notice. "The fact was, Mr Sumner was not aware that the money had gone."

That may be indicative of two things: how much money he had made over the years and just how preoccupied he was with other things.

Money has also been generated by the star's investments in property, government stocks and currency markets. "I earn a great deal of money from a number of sources," Sting said. "I didn't know what I was worth, but I do now."



Queen discovered that £100,000 had been invested in bars and restaurants

Guy Fawkes launch for DIY rocket

By NIGEL HAWKES

AN AMATEUR explorer who plans to reach the stars under sugar power yesterday unveiled his latest rocket, in the driveway of his house in a Manchester suburb.

Steve Bennett, 31, plans to launch Starphaser 2 on November 5 from North Yorkshire. Though capable of reaching an altitude of 20 miles, Starphaser 2 will be limited to 1,300ft on this flight, he said.

"I want to see how it performs," Mr Bennett said. He has been making rockets since he was inspired by *Thunderbirds* at the age of 13. His 20ft rocket is made from glass fibre, aluminium and plywood, and was assembled in various rooms of his detached house in Dukinfield.

Mr Bennett, a laboratory technician, believes it is the largest home-made rocket to be built in Europe. "Next year, I hope to get into space with a rocket burning cane sugar and

liquid oxygen," he said. Tate and Lyle has sponsored his attempt.

Last year he successfully launched a ten-foot rocket a mile and a half into the sky from a field in Montgomery, Powys. But he faces tough competition to be the first amateur into space, with enthusiasts elsewhere in Britain, the United States and Australia pursuing the same objective.

His wife Adrienne, 31, does all she can to help. "I suppose it is novel. You don't go into many houses and see bits of rocket lying around. But I am very supportive of him. The exhilaration when a launch goes well is tremendous."

The couple's four-year-old son Max is small enough to fit into the rocket's nose cone. Mr Bennett said: "He has been in there a few times. He is convinced I am going to launch him into the sky on November 5."

McCartney brings the Dead to life

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

PAUL MCCARTNEY is making his debut as a film-maker with a nine-minute movie about the rock group the Grateful Dead. It is his tribute to the band's singer-guitarist, Jerry Garcia, a leading figure in the hippy movement, who died in a Californian drug rehabilitation centre in August.

The film will be premiered at the London Film Festival on November 16. McCartney said he had been working on it for two years and wanted people to know that he was not trying to "cash in on" the death of Garcia, who knew about the project.

It was inspired by four rolls of film of the Grateful Dead taken by McCartney's wife, Linda, in 1967-68. McCartney said he became fascinated by the idea of how the stills might look if flipped rapidly in sequence.

Scientists spend £200,000 on the crunch question

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

OF ALL the questions that keep scientists awake at night, understanding why cornflakes go soggy when milk is poured on them cannot rank high. Yet three researchers at the Institute of Food Research in Norwich spent £200,000 answering it. Half the money was provided by the British taxpayer and the other half from the cereal makers.

Last week the paper they wrote in *Powder Technology* — "A study of the effects of water content on the compression behaviour of breakfast cereal flakes" — was awarded the Ig Nobel prize for physics, an American award given every year for research which "cannot or should not be reproduced".

Yesterday the IFR denied that the research was flaky. The brief was to develop a test to measure the texture of cereals, for manufacturers

anxious to cut down the number of tastings necessary before a product could be put on the supermarket shelves.

The scientists responsible, Andrew Smith, Dominique Georget and Roger Parker, were defended by Professor Peter Belton, deputy director of the IFR. "It is serious physics, not some Micky Mouse idea," he said. "What we are concerned with is understanding the underlying process and getting a mechanism of measurement so manufacturers can give what the public want."

"When you put cereal in a bowl and put milk on it, you don't want it to be soggy or so hard that you cut your mouth. In the past the texture has been tested by sensory panels. We were trying to develop a test to measure the texture of cereals. You can save time and money if you can

cut down on these tastings." Among the other winners at the annual ceremony, held this year at Harvard University and sponsored by the journal *Annals of Improbable Results*, were Britain's Nick Leeson, the trader who ruined Barings Bank. He won a share in the economics prize "for using the calculus of derivatives to demonstrate that every financial institution has its limits".

The prize in public health went to Scandinavian scientists for their paper "Impact of wet underwear on thermoregulatory responses and thermal comfort in the cold". The winner of the dentistry prize, Robert Beaumont of Minnesota University, makes the cereal project sound like the theory of relativity. His subject: "Patient preferences for waxed or unwaxed dental floss."

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Tories urge GPs to take over from hospital treatment

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE patients will be expected to go to their family doctor in an emergency rather than hospital under plans unveiled by Stephen Dorrell today.

Sketching out his vision of a "primary care led" NHS, the Health Secretary will fore-shadow a shake-up in which GPs also play a much bigger part in treating the mentally ill, looking after the elderly and in preventing illness.

Mr Dorrell believes the end of the long-running dispute over night-visit payments has opened the door to a new look health service in which less work is done in expensive, high-tech hospitals and more in doctors' surgeries. The merger in April of district health authorities and those dealing with family health services is another spur to change.

But his proposals, to be unveiled at the annual conference of the National Association of Fundholding Practitioners in Harrogate, are likely to prompt accusations that he is seeking to shuffle extra work onto GPs as a cost-cutting measure that will

jeopardise standards. Mr Dorrell will suggest that many routine injuries can be handled by GPs and do not require the expertise and equipment of hospital casualty departments. He will signal that he is ready to pay family doctors more if agreement can be reached over the next few months on the scope of their new responsibilities.

The Health Secretary will also say that he wants fundholding GPs — those managing their own budgets who buy hospital services for their patients — to lead the next wave of reforms. By next April more than half the population will be covered by fundholding practices.

Mr Dorrell will also use his speech to take a sideswipe at Margaret Beckett, the Shadow Health Secretary, who was yesterday given a rough ride at the conference over her plans to phase out fundholding.

She faced a string of hostile questions after confirming Labour's plans. She was told that GPs wanted greater freedom and the "de-

regulation of primary care". Her plans for all GPs in an area to plan services in conjunction with health authorities would reimpose the "dead hand of bureaucracy".

GPs also rejected her claims that fundholding led to a two-tier service and insisted that it saved money and boosted efficiency. Mrs Beckett, who took great care not to antagonise her audience, accepted that fundholding had brought benefits and shifted power from hospitals to family doctors.

But she stood by her criticisms, saying her proposals would be less costly to administer and fairer. She warned the doctors that the financial benefits they enjoyed would be withdrawn by the Conservatives if they won the election. "I do not believe that Kenneth Clarke set up the fundholding system in order to put substantially more resources into the NHS," she said.

Recent history was littered with schemes generously funded by the Tories at the outset but then progressively pared back.



Linda Hill, 47, and her partner Alan Baker, 54, of Margate, Kent, celebrating their £1.8 million lottery win in London yesterday. Mrs Hill said she would go on working as a Butlin's chambermaid; he has given up his job managing betting shops

Welsh family takes flight to sink Columbus

By ALAN HAMILTON

STAND aside, Christopher Columbus: the Welsh are renewing their claim to be the true discoverers of North America.

Tony Williams, a school caretaker, left Wales with his wife and three children yesterday for North Dakota, where they plan to live among the Mandans, a tribe of Native Americans whose language is said to bear a strong resemblance to old Welsh. Mr Williams hopes to prove the long-standing Welsh belief that the first European to set foot in America was Prince Madoc of Gwynedd in 1170, more than 300 years before Columbus.

According to an often-repeated Welsh legend, Madoc landed at Mobile Bay, Alabama, with 300 men. They were captured by Sioux Indians and most were killed, but a few survived to intermarry. They were subsequently banished by the Sioux and formed a new tribe, the Mandans.

The legend continues that in 1666 the Rev Morgan Jones, a Welsh missionary, was captured by a tribe with

fair features and was about to be killed. As he prayed loudly for deliverance to God in Welsh, he was suddenly spared, treated as an honoured guest and was able to converse freely with the natives.

Mr Williams, having discovered that there is a town called Maddock 100 miles from the Mandan tribal lands, has assumed its name to be further evidence of an early Welsh presence. Mr Williams said: "It would be wonderful if a Celt could get the recognition for finding America: it would throw a real spanner in the works for quite a few historians."

Historians, however, remain unconvinced. Dr John Gwynfor Jones of the University College of Wales, Cardiff, said that Madoc was supposed to have been the son of King Owain of Gwynedd, and is frequently mentioned in medieval literature. "His name reappeared when the Spanish staked a claim over America in the 16th century: I think the Welsh were desperate to put in their bid, so they used Madoc as propaganda."

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Anti-obesity findings rejected by Dorrell

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A LONG-DELAYED report on obesity which says efforts to control the nation's waistlines are failing was published yesterday by the Department of Health.

But Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, rejected the report's principal recommendation — setting up an "Obesity Focus Group" to monitor efforts to reverse the trend. That job could be done by existing committees, the department said.

The report says by 2005, 18 per cent of men and 24 per cent of women "could" be obese. That means achieving the department's Health of the Nation target to reduce obesity to 1980 figures (6 per cent of men and 8 per cent of women) by 2005 "looks increasingly unlikely".

The report, with the department at least a year, is the result of a symposium of experts in February 1994 under the chairmanship of Professor Philip James, Director of the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen. Lower fat intake and more exercise are its remedies.

Skye Bridge protesters reported by police

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

PROTESTERS against tolls on the Skye Bridge were cautioned by police after an early morning demonstration yesterday. About 30 people face legal action after blocking the bridge and then allegedly driving across without paying the toll, said to be the highest in Europe.

The bridge was opened on Monday by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and was free until midnight that day. One hour later a convoy of cars, led by members of the Skye Pipe Band, demanded to be let across without paying. After two hours of talks with the bridge manager, they crossed the bridge at 3am.

A report has been forwarded to the Procurator Fiscal. Northern Constabulary said they had been charged with contravening the Roads and Streets Act 1991.

The protesters have vowed to repeat their action every week until the tolls are reduced. The tolls will help to pay off the loans on the £25 million bridge. Mr Forsyth has promised that the bridge will be free by 2015.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18 1995

Scotland Yard suspends constable

Police marksman who shot suspect faces murder trial

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A POLICE marksman was charged yesterday with murdering a suspected-car thief. PC Patrick Hodgson, 43, is believed to be the first marksman officer to face a charge of murder on duty.

He is accused of killing David Ewin, who was shot on February 28 when PC Hodgson and the crew of an armed response vehicle went to investigate two men seen with a stolen car in Barnes, south-west London. Mr Ewin, who was unmarried, died in hospital 16 days later.

PC Hodgson, 43, was formally charged at Belgravia police station yesterday and released on police bail. He will appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court on November 28. Commander Roy Rampton, the head of the S019 firearms unit, suspended him from duty

yesterday. The constable, who is single, has been a Metropolitan Police officer for 22 years and a member of Scotland Yard's firearms unit for 15 years. At the time of the shooting he was one of three officers in a car based at Old Street police station.

Mr Ewin, 38, from Shepherd's Bush, west London, had a long record of crime and violence and was on parole at the time of the incident. He had been a chauffeur, with clients including the pop stars Annie Lennox and Michael Hutchence.

He was shot after officers saw a stolen car outside an off-licence near Hammersmith Bridge. The other man in the car was arrested but released without charge.

Mr Ewin, whose wife Sarah gave birth to their child after

his death, was shot once in the stomach and once in the arm while at the wheel of the car. His wife has begun legal action against the Metropolitan Police and is seeking damages. Next month the High Court will be asked to order the Yard to release police papers to Mrs Ewin's lawyers.

The murder charge was brought after an investigation into the shooting by Detective Superintendent Aidan Thorne of Scotland Yard's complaints investigation bureau, supervised by the Police Complaints Authority.

Officials at the Police Federation said the case against PC Hodgson would be vigorously defended. "The federation has supported him since the beginning and will continue to do so."



King Chulalongkorn of Siam, seated, with Prince Vudhjai, his son saved from drowning

A king's gift to lifesaver is sold

BY JOHN VINCENT

A DIAMOND-STUDED cigarette case given to a naval hero who twice saved the lives of members of royalty has been sold for £17,250.

Seven years after Christopher Cradock jumped overboard to save a Siamese prince from drowning, he was knighted for his part in rescuing the Duke and Duchess of Fife (the Princess Royal) and their two young daughters from a wrecked P & O liner.

The cigarette case that the King of Siam gave to Captain Cradock — later Rear-Admiral Cradock — for saving the prince's life was sold to a private buyer from Thailand at Christie's. It is inscribed: "To Captain Christopher Cradock, CB, HMS Bacchante from HM King Chulalongkorn of Siam, for jumping overboard at night and saving the life of Prince Vudhjai in Palmas Bay, Sardinia, April 1904." The case was sold by Rear-Admiral Cradock's great great nephew, Josslyn Gore-Booth, 45, a landowner from Co Durham, on behalf of the admiral's surviving descendants.

The admiral "greatly distinguished himself by his remarkable courage" during the Boxer rebellion in 1900. He was naval ADC to Edward VII from 1909-10. He was promoted to flag rank in 1910, a year before he helped to rescue the Duke and Duchess of Fife and their two daughters from the *Delhi* which was wrecked off Morocco. At the outbreak of the First World War he was charged with clearing Atlantic trade routes before making for the Falklands. Admiral Cradock engaged the enemy in an "unequal fight" off Chile in November 1914 and went down with all hands in HMS *Good Hope*.

The back of the diamond-studded cigarette case presented to Captain Cradock by the King of Siam for his heroic deed



The back of the diamond-studded cigarette case presented to Captain Cradock by the King of Siam for his heroic deed

Mother said child's cries were only nightmares

BY BILL FROST AND RICHARD DUCE

Rosemary West

SCREAMS and anguished cries were heard during the night from 25 Cromwell Street, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday. A woman who lived at the house said she had listened to a female voice pleading: "Stop it, daddy."

Another witness said that he heard ten to 20 minutes of someone screaming and saying: "No, no, please." The next morning, Rosemary West was claimed to have said that the voice was her eldest daughter Heather having a nightmare.

Heather West, who would have celebrated her twenty-fifth birthday yesterday, was allegedly murdered and buried beneath a patio in the Wests' garden. Her dismembered remains were the first to be discovered.

Erwin Marschall, a Gloucester bus driver who had been going out with one of Wests' daughters, told the jury yesterday that he had spent a night at the house in the late 1980s. "I couldn't sleep and I thought I heard some rustling around and then a scream. It went on for about ten to 20 minutes. The scream seemed long. There was a break and then there were some more." Asked by Brian Evenson, QC, for the prosecution, whether he heard any words, Mr Marschall replied: "Some-



Hammer said screams came from cellar

thing like, 'No, no, please.' He had asked Mrs West about the screams. "I was told it was Heather," she said, that she was having a regular nightmare.

Later, after the teenager had vanished, he asked Mrs West where she had gone. "She told me that Heather was uncontrollable and had left home. Rosemary didn't seem to be much bothered about it."

Subsequently, Mr Marschall saw Frederick West begin work on a patio. "The following day I went back and it was half-finished," he told the court.

Jane Hamer, who shared a flat at the house with her boyfriend, said she had heard children's voices "screaming and shouting" in the night. "I believe it came from the cellar area... I heard, 'Stop it, daddy.' Asked if she could identify the voices, she said: "It was either Heather or Anne-Marie [West]."

Ms Hamer told the court that Mrs West was "the dominant character in the family... she always seemed to be telling everyone in the house what to do and when to do it."



TRIAL

Rosemary West has pleaded guilty to murdering her young women and girls, among them her own daughter. The alleged victims are Charmaine West, Heather West, Shirley Robinson, Shirley Hubbard, Therese Siegenhalter, Lynda Gough, Carol Ann Cooper, Lucy Farrington, Juanita Mott and Alison Chambers.

Ronald Harrison, a friend of Mr West for almost 25 years, said he had become concerned about Heather's disappearance in 1987. "Fred said she had run away from home. He told me that she had scratched the children while babysitting. Rose had given her a good hiding and Heather ran off."

"I said to Fred, 'Did you go and look for her?' He said, 'No, she's always ringing in to say she's all right.' Rose was in the room at the time. I believed him and the conversation just finished."

Ronald Ferguson, QC, for the defence, said: "I put it to you that at no time was Mrs West present when Frederick West said that she had given Heather a good hiding for scratching the children and she then ran off." Mr Harrison replied: "That's what he said. She [Rosemary West] never said nothing."

Margaret Dix, who lived with her family in a house opposite 25 Cromwell Street, told of her concern when Heather vanished. She said that Mrs West told her the teenager had "left home" and allegedly continued: "I'm not bothered if she's alive or dead. She's made her bed and she must lie on it."

Kathryn Halliday, 38, a neighbour of the Wests, told the court that she had sex with Mrs West and sometimes with her husband. Mrs Halliday said she was often blindfolded, gagged, and on two occasions had a pillow put across her face.

"I was very low and very, very vulnerable," she said.

Her affair with the Wests stopped after they allegedly showed her whips and other items associated with sadomasochistic sex. "I did not want to get involved in anything like that at all."

Mrs Halliday admitted that she had sold part of her story to a Sunday newspaper for £8,000.

Earlier, Arthur Dobbs said he met Mrs West through a contact magazine, and that she had told him her husband was having sex with their children. He reported the matter to social services.

The trial continues.

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AMNESTY WEEK 15-22 OCTOBER



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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Doctors renew appeals for Government to ban tobacco advertising

Rise in child smokers ends four years of progress

By CATHERINE MILTON, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE number of children in England who smoke rose by a fifth last year, the first increase since 1990, according to a survey published yesterday. Girls are more likely to smoke than boys.

Almost all children are aware of the harmful effects, the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) says. But the proportion of children aged between 11 and 15 who claim to smoke at least one cigarette a week rose from 10 to 12 per cent.

The unexpected rise marks the failure of the Government to meet its Health of the Nation target of reducing teenage smoking in England to less than 6 per cent by 1994.

Doctors' leaders responded by urging the Government to curb or stop advertising by cigarette manufacturers. The British Medical Association said: "The issue for young smokers is cigarette promotion. Unlike adults, the four most advertised brands are the top four for teenage smokers. This proves a clear correlation between young people's smoking and advertising."

Anti-smoking groups have accused some cigarette companies of using advertising techniques aimed at children.

Yesterday's report notes that the Government's target was set exceptionally low. But it adds: "None the less, the increase in prevalence in 1994

was not expected, particularly in view of the numerous anti-smoking initiatives since the target was set."

Baroness Cumberlege, junior Health Minister, defended the Government's record and insisted action was being taken to counter teenage smoking. "These are disappointing figures which show that more effort is needed by all concerned," she said.

The Government was spending up to £3 million on a three-year programme designed to reduce teenage smoking and "smoking education" was part of the national curriculum. A crackdown on illegal sales of cigarettes to under-16s was under way.

The report found that regular under-age smokers had on average £10.47 pocket money to spend at will; occasional smokers (less than one cigarette a week), had £8.30. The average for all pupils was £6.83. About 20 per cent of smokers aged 11 or 12 did paid work, compared with 8 per cent of non-smokers.

Almost all children were aware of the dangers of smoking, and were more negative about the habit than in a 1994 survey. The survey was conducted among secondary school children. Smoking among Scottish and Welsh children aged between 11 and 15 had hardly changed since 1990.

British children drink more alcohol than their European counterparts, according to a report from the French Institute for Scientific Research into Drinks. While British children start drinking later than the French, they drink more and are regulated far less by their parents.

The number of girls aged between 10 and 16 cautioned by police for prostitution rose by almost 50 per cent between 1989 and 1993, according to a Church of England Children's Society report. More than 150 girls in England and Wales were cautioned in 1993.



Cumberlege insisted action was being taken



Shared habit: 12 per cent of children aged between 11 and 15 in England smoke at least one cigarette a week

'They all know the danger but it seems a long way off to them'

By EMMA WILKINS

TEENAGERS are unable to grasp the concept that smoking damages their health, the pressure group Action on Smoking and Health said yesterday. Children know that smoking has risks, but seem unable to relate the dangers to their own well-being.

Amanda Sandford, a spokeswoman for Ash, said: "Children have a great deal of knowledge about smoking from education in schools, but they still go on to smoke. It is possible they think the smoking-related diseases affect only middle-aged or old people. That seems a long way off when you're a teenager."

"It is very odd that there has been an increase in environmental awareness among teenagers, yet that has been mirrored by a rise in smoking."

Ash advocates a total ban on tobacco advertising and believes that tobacco should be categorised with Ecstasy and cannabis when the dangers of drug-taking are explained in schools. Ms Sandford said: "Parents should be as concerned to find their children

smoking as they would be to find them taking Ecstasy and cannabis."

An increase in smoking among teenage girls was blamed on stress. Penelope Penney, president of the Girls' Schools' Association, which represents 240 independent schools, said: "I'm not entirely surprised that smoking has increased among young girls."

There are enormous pressures on them to succeed at everything they do, to look wonderful all the time and cope with everything."

"There is no doubt that they are under greater stress now than five years ago. It is more difficult to get a university place and harder to find a job afterwards. My view is that they go through a phase of

smoking because it seems to help them get through a difficult and stressful time."

Ms Penney, headmistress of Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls in Elstree, Hertfordshire, runs assertiveness training classes advising pupils how to say no to a cigarette. She said: "I think the only answers are to ban smoking from school - which limits the time young people can smoke - and concentrate on the education side."

Jan Birks, general manager of corporate affairs at Gallaher, which makes Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut, said: "No one wants children to be smoking. All tobacco advertising is targeted at over 18s. Smoking is an adult pursuit and adults are able to make a free choice about whether they smoke."

Mr Birks pointed out that there was a voluntary ban on poster advertising within a 200-metre radius of schools. From next year all permanent shopfront advertising of tobacco will be phased out. The cigarettes smoked by children represent about 1 per cent of the market, with a value of about £100 million.

Official figures hide truancy, says union

MORE than 800,000 children play truant each year in a "neglected scandal" masked by government figures, education welfare officers said yesterday. The public service union Unison said one child in ten plays truant and on average 80,000 pupils a day miss lessons.

The union accused schools of marking children as "authorised absent" to avoid bad publicity in truancy league tables. Last year's government figures on truancy showed the total teaching time lost through unauthor-

ised absence in secondary schools was 1.8 per cent, which Unison said would amount to only 130,000 children playing truant. Its figure of 800,000 was calculated by canvassing 250 education welfare officers across the country, who said that, on average, 10 per cent of pupils were referred to them because of truancy.

John Findlay, Unison national officer, said: "On an average day, 80,000 children and young people are roaming the streets. This has shocking implications."

Beauty in the eye beholden to laser therapy



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

FASHION dictates that it is attractive for women to colour the upper eyelid, but that the skin under the eye should usually be left alone. Any increase in infra-orbital pigmentation is often considered unattractive by both sexes and it can mistakenly be considered a sign of ill-health.

Until recently patients who asked their doctor for advice about dark circles under the eyes were given recommendations only about their lifestyles: to keep more regular hours with a full night's sleep; to take more exercise in the fresh air; even to attend to their bowels, as the Victorians were convinced that shadows under the eyes were a sign of constipation.

Good sound advice but quite useless so far as the infra-orbital pigmentation was concerned. The advent of the laser, and other improvements in plastic surgery, has enabled doctors to treat many types of infra-orbital discoloration effectively: the hitherto can be saved for other still incurable complaints.

Under-eye discoloration has many causes. In some cases it is a result of post-inflammatory pigmentation from long-standing eczema, in others it is the result of a network of superficial blood vessels: the colour of the skin in these cases has a bluish tinge.

The two most common causes of dark circles under the eyes are deposits of the pigment melanin in the skin, which produces a dark flare with the colour deeper in the skin nearer the nose; or shadowing from baggy eyes. Both types can be helped with laser therapy.

Professor Nicholas Lowe, an Englishman who is clinical

Professor of Dermatology at the University of California School of Medicine and director of the Cranley Clinic in London, has published in *Dermatological Surgery* his research into dealing with infra-orbital shadows by treating them with one or two exposures to the Q switched ruby laser: the wavelength of the light is in the red band which is specifically absorbed by dark pigments such as melanin. Pigmentation due to increased melanin deposits becomes more obvious with age and is more common in people who are naturally dark-skinned.

The research showed that treatment with the laser was very effective, although the maximum advantage did not always become apparent for some months. Immediately after treatment there was sometimes even a temporary increase in pigmentation.

Professor Lowe says that infra-orbital discoloration from bags under the eyes also responds to treatment. Lines and baggy eyes can give character, and are a notable feature in many politicians' faces, but if patients are unhappy with them, minor bags respond to treatment with a different type of laser, the ultrapulsed carbon dioxide laser.

This causes controlled vaporisation of the superficial skin layer and after treatment there is more collagen in the skin, which appears to be rejuvenated, and the bags shrink.

Severe, heavy bags around the eyes need cosmetic surgery but Professor Lowe's opinion is that a major operation is not always necessary and local treatment can be very effective.

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Apparatus for counting how much you could save

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Competent and skilled service engineers

accessible, adj.
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accomplish, vb.
Achieving unrivalled service response times

accountable, adj.
Fully responsible to our customers

accurate, adj.
High quality copies from reliable machines

acopy, n.
New name in copiers.

adjustable, adj.
The flexibility to change copiers without penalty

admiration, n.
What our rivals have for our products and services

advanced, adj.
Multi-functional copiers that use the latest digital technology

afford, vb.

The ability to purchase with confidence.

agreement, n.
Our guarantee that we will deliver the services we promise

ahead, adj.
Creating innovative copier solutions that keep us in front

alternative, n.
Special 90 day contracts to give you more choice

attitude, n.
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attractive, adj.
Creating original packages through our own Group finance

authority, n.
Giving expert advice at all times

automatic, n.
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aware, adj.
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All good words get copied

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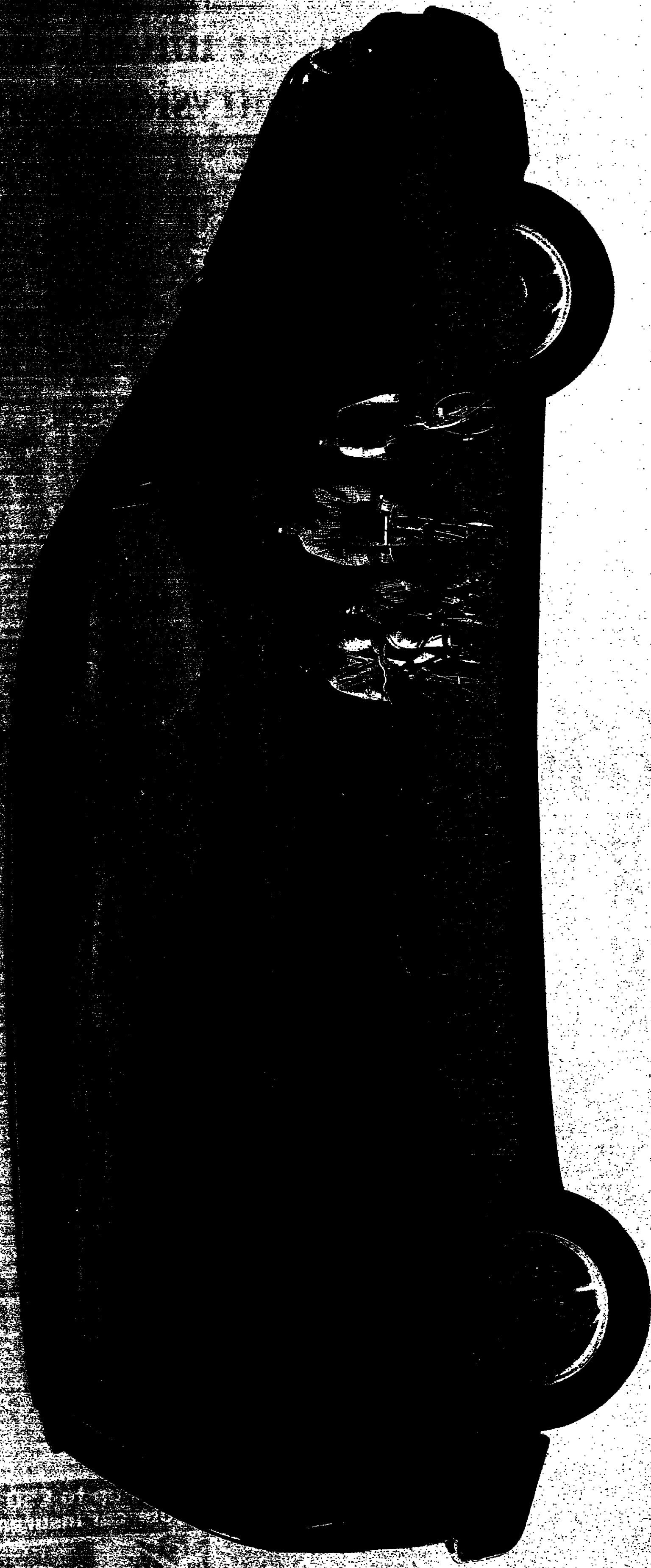
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Face to face: inside Edwards the Chemists, which says Boots is undermining a vital personal service

Village chemist accuses Boots of unethical delivery service

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A VILLAGE chemist confronted Boots yesterday in a test case that could determine the survival of small local pharmacies nationwide.

At a hearing in London, Britain's largest pharmacy chain is accused of misconduct and unethical behaviour over a prescription delivery service for Durrington, Wiltshire. The local chemist, backed by the Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, says that Boots is undermining a vital personal service.

The society's statutory disciplinary body, was told that Boots in Salisbury had

begun operating a service for a Durrington GP practice last year, a few months after the opening of the local Edwards Chemists. Prescriptions were collected from the surgery, dispensed 12 miles away, and returned for collection by patients.

Boots was dispensing 1,400 items a month to the Durrington practice, compared with 520 dispensed by Edwards. Each item attracts a dispensing fee of 93p. The opening of the new local pharmacy had been opposed by the doctors; they had lost their right to dispense medicines themselves.

In a second case before the

committee, a pharmacy in the village of Winterborne, Dorset, was told to local doctors after facing competition from a similar Boots delivery service.

Robert Webb, QC, for the council, said that the best pharmaceutical service involved contact between pharmacist and patient. "A pharmacist can identify errors in prescriptions, check doses, answer queries and explain the effects of drugs."

Collection schemes were necessary in areas where patients found it difficult to get to a pharmacy. But in most cases they were abandoned when a local pharma-

cy opened. If this did not happen, it would undermine rural pharmacies.

Mr Webb said the council was trying to protect a viable network of local pharmacies. "If we allow a collection and delivery service to compete next door to a full local pharmacy, we will be allowing a worse service to compete with a better one, and the best service is thereby undermined," he added.

Outside the hearing, John Nash-Steele, owner of Edwards Chemists, said: "We will fight to the bitter end. We offer a personal service and that's what will be lost." The hearing continues.

Green Belt is defended — green museum is not

Gummer unveils vision of countryside revived

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE
CORRESPONDENT

A "NEW vision" to regenerate the countryside economy in the 21st century was unveiled yesterday by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, in a White Paper on rural England, the first comprehensive survey for 50 years.

Mr Gummer said the document embodied "our determination not to allow the countryside to be turned into a museum" and detailed how it could remain "a living, working place" without harming the environment.

The paper contains measures to promote rural businesses, preserve village shops and post offices, ensure a supply of cheap rented homes, combat rural crime and increase the influence of parish councils on planning decisions that affect the countryside. Strengthening the competitiveness of the rural economy was central to the proposals.

Mr Gummer said, he added: "At the same time, we should defend the Green Belt, restrain out-of-town shopping developments and, by the regeneration of our inner cities, ensure that as much new building as possible takes place in our towns."

The paper seeks to reconcile the growing demands of town-dwellers to be allowed access to the countryside for sport and recreation, the needs of agriculture and the creation of jobs to replace those no longer available in traditional rural industries of farming, mining and quarrying. The White Paper details the changing face of the countryside. In the past 50 years the number



Enduring image: the White Paper emphasises the importance of preserving rural services

employed in agriculture has fallen from one million, including 700,000 farm labourers, to 430,000, including 200,000 labourers. People employed in rural collieries have dropped to 5,500 from 60,000 in the past 10 years.

Farming, though it still occupies 71 per cent of the English landscape, now employs no more than 1.3 per cent of the English labour force. Even in remote rural areas no more than 10 per cent earn a living from the land.

This, however, has not led to the rural depopulation that has happened in France and other parts of Europe. "Here we have a net influx of people into the countryside," the paper says. "Many have moved because they value the environment and many have brought additional entrepreneurial flair, technical skills and capital for investment." Some 1.2 million manufacturing jobs, 31 per cent of the national total, are now located in rural areas. About 3.5

million service sector jobs, more than a quarter of the total, are also in the countryside.

The number of people living in the countryside rose by nearly 17 per cent between 1971 and 1991, according to the paper, from 11.1 million to 12.9 million. They now account for more than a quarter of the total population. But many are retired people, commuters and weekenders who do not need the village schools, shops and post offices that once provided the focus for rural life.

The White Paper, jointly produced by Environment Department and Ministry of Agriculture, is stronger on what has happened to the countryside than on policies for the future. There is also little, if any, extra money available for new rural initiatives. The Government has rejected the radical idea, proposed by (among others) the Country Landowners Association, of creating a new Department of Rural Affairs.

Instead a Cabinet committee dealing with the environment is to be given an expanded role looking at the impact on the countryside of all Government policies.

The paper steers a careful line between the demands of farmers and landowners for a dramatic easing of planning controls, which would give them much more freedom to put their land to alternative economic use, and the concern of conservation groups to protect the countryside.

The White Paper received a mixed response with critics highlighting its lack of detail and the absence of funds to realise its aims.

Paul Tyler MP, Liberal Democrat rural affairs spokesman, welcomed ministers' admission that the rural community deserved better treatment than it had experienced recently. He said: "The interests, problems and voice of the countryside must be articulated more clearly."

Gavin Strang, the Labour spokesman on rural affairs, said the Government had "failed our rural communities". He blamed the decline of village shops and other essential local services on planning mistakes by the Government such as the promotion of out-of-town shopping centres.

Hugh Duberry, president of the 50,000-strong Country Landowners Association, said: "My members are the stewards of the countryside and we have long been calling for an integrated policy for rural areas. We are delighted that Government seems to have heeded this plea."

Ambridge view, page 15
Leading article, page 17

White Paper plots faster pace of rural lifestyle

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE White Paper makes a series of recommendations in a 146-page analysis of the issues facing rural areas.

Small business development in the countryside is seen as a vital source of job creation. The Paper proposes to relax planning controls on the conversion of redundant farm and other rural buildings for business use, with particular emphasis on light industry, exploiting new information technology and "teleworking". Approval of such conversions "would depend on road traffic forecasts to prevent 'uncontrolled expansion' of such business from damaging the countryside. A document on how this new 'rural business use' might be implemented is to be published shortly.

The paper sees self-help through volunteer "village watch", "neighbourhood watch" and "farm watch" schemes as the best way to combat rural crime. The Government also plans to have 3,000 new "neighbourhood special constables" on the beat by the end of next year, many of them in rural areas, and will encourage the extension of closed-circuit television surveillance.

Although 87 per cent of parishes have some kind of bus service, only 29 per cent have a daily service. But the paper sees little hope of reducing reliance on the private car in the countryside. Frequent bus services for all rural communities, no matter how remote or sparsely populated, are not a practical option. The paper would like to see more community bus services, run by volunteers and subsidised if necessary by the relevant county council. On road-building, the paper says there should be fewer new trunk roads in the countryside and more spending on improving existing motorways and providing bypasses to relieve villages.

The paper identifies an acute shortage of cheap rural homes, increasing the supply of such housing is seen as the key to keeping young people working and living in the countryside. At present only 12 per cent of rural housing is subsidised, compared to 25 per cent in urban areas. Villages with fewer than 3,000 inhabitants will be ex-

empt from a right-to-buy for housing association tenants. That is to prevent such housing disappearing onto the open market and being bought up at prices local people cannot afford. The Government will increase funding to housing associations.

The Government will also speed the disposal of surplus Ministry of Defence housing. There are an estimated 13,000 empty MoD homes in Britain, many of them in rural areas. Rural households will be encouraged to take in lodgers through the rent-a-room scheme, under which rental income of up to £3,250 a year is tax free.

More private-sector bodies and charities will be encouraged to bid for government funding to provide cheap rural housing. Although in general new housing should be sited inside existing villages, the paper says isolated new homes in open countryside should not be discouraged where that can enable farm-workers and others to live near their place of work.

The paper says fundamental reform of the European Union's common agricultural policy (CAP) is needed. The policy is "unduly expensive, with expenditure on British farmers alone running at £2.7 billion a year, most of which subsidises food production. The Government will continue to press in Brussels for reducing farm subsidies and re-directing them towards the support of environmentally beneficial and sustainable farming". Priority will also be given to finding more money for the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, under which farmers receive grants to protect wildlife habitats and landscape features such as hedgerows and dry-stone walls. The scheme has a current budget of £13.5 million a year. The Government also plans to double the amount of woodland in England over the next 50 years. Only 7.5 per cent of England is tree-covered, one of the lowest percentages in Europe. The paper is in favour

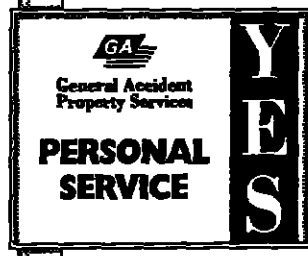
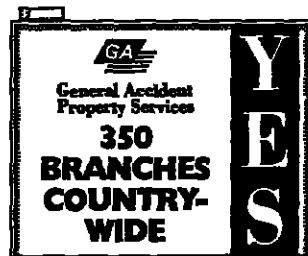
of increased public access to the countryside but rejects the demand of the Ramblers' Association for a "right-to-roam" over all uncultivated land, which is backed by the Labour Party. Such a right would damage crops and endanger livestock and wildlife and would be unacceptable to landowners. "It would elevate one interest above all others and institutionalise rights without obligations," the paper says.

Village shops and post offices provide "irreplaceable services for local people without cars or ready access to public transport", the White Paper says. They are declining because many newcomers to villages are commuters or retired former town-dwellers with cars and little need of such services. Sixty-one per cent of parishes have no permanent shop and 63 per cent no post office.

The Government plans to introduce legislation to reduce or eliminate the business rates paid by village shops and post offices. In the meantime, local authorities will be encouraged to make more use of existing powers to reduce rates on hardship grounds. Local authorities will also be urged to take more account of the effect on village shops of granting approval for such new developments as out-of-town supermarkets. The paper also favours more "community post offices", often located in village pubs or schools, which open for two or three days a week.

Rural schools are seen as the focus of family life. About 4,000 of England's 19,000 primary schools are in rural areas, but 52 per cent of parishes now have no school. The rate of closure is slowing: 230 small rural schools closed over the past 12 years but only 80 since 1990. The paper says one way to stop further closures is to integrate schools more into village life, making them available for sport, adult education and parish meetings.

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مكتبة

Ashdown backs parent power

By Alice Thomson

PADDY ASHDOWN offered a parent-teacher contract yesterday as the centrepiece of a Liberal Democrat campaign to raise education standards.

In a speech to the Institute of Education, he said: "Many parents would like to know what role they can play in partnership with the teacher. Nothing else could more add value to education than a more cost-effective basis than giving parents the opportunity to play that role."

The Liberal Democrats would invest £2 billion more in education, raised from an extra 1p on income tax. They would bring schools under the "light-touch" control of local authorities, allowing them similar freedom to that under grant-maintained status.

He also disclosed that the party has held talks with independent schools on closer co-operation between the public and private sectors that would mean phasing out the Assisted Places Scheme.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons, questions to education and employment ministers and the Prime Minister. Continued debate on the balance of the Labour Party's stance on the Conservative Party's Education Bill and a debate on the Charles (Amendment) Bill.



Cherie Booth yesterday as she recalled her work with the victims of domestic violence

Booth fronts Labour campaign

CHERIE BOOTH moved into the political spotlight yesterday for the first time since her husband, Tony Blair, became leader of the Labour Party (Alice Thomson writes).

Ms Booth, a leading QC, joined Clare Short, Labour spokeswoman on women's issues, to launch a Labour campaign to eliminate domestic and sexual violence. Ms

Booth said that she had chosen to speak out because her work as a junior barrister had brought her into contact with the secret agony suffered by thousands of women. "I was 22 and I had no idea of the terrible things that go on behind closed doors."

She represented young women seeking injunctions to restrain abusive partners. "I would turn up to court and

see for myself the bruising, the scars, sometimes gaps where teeth had been knocked out," she said. "Some of my clients were pregnant and often the violence took place in front of children."

In a document called *Peace at Home* Labour supports the development of a national helpline for victims of rape and sexual assault, and a network of women's refuges.

Heseltine wins in battle over Civil Service scrutiny

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

MICHAEL HESELTINE has overcome opposition from Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, and cleared the way for MPs to examine the intricate workings of the Civil Service.

The Deputy Prime Minister has backed the setting up of a Commons select committee that will call him to give evidence on all aspects of running Whitehall. The committee is expected to be formed by the end of the year and will be given the freedom to examine matters ranging from Civil Service pay to the contracting out of Whitehall services.

The move is intended to lift the veil of secrecy from Whitehall and underpin Mr Heseltine's role as overseeing the day-to-day workings of government. He has been opposed by Sir Robin, the head of the Home Civil Service, who has resisted MPs' attempts to pry too closely into public service.

Last year, Sir Robin and William Waldegrave, then the Public Services Minister, blocked moves by the Treasury and Civil Service sub-committee to send questionnaires to thousands of civil servants. They argued that such an approach would draw civil servants into the political arena.

Setting up the new committee will go some way towards

satisfying MPs' demands for greater access to the operation of the Civil Service. It has been claimed that the growing complexity of Whitehall machinery is obscuring the work that civil servants do.

Senior MPs will meet today to discuss the committee's remit, which is likely to include the extent of ministerial responsibility and the relationship between the Government and its executive agencies.

There is growing concern among MPs that there are no clear lines of ministerial responsibility for services run by government agencies. After the controversy over the running of the Prison Service, Labour MPs will call for Mr Heseltine to be made directly answerable on matters in which ministers and agency heads are called to account.

He will also be questioned on matters relating to competitiveness and deregulation, for which he retained responsibility after leaving the Trade and Industry Department. However, his enthusiastic support for the plan to widen the select committee's remit to all areas of Whitehall will add to fears among Cabinet colleagues that he is intruding on their departmental territory.

MPs have voiced frustration that the workings of the Civil Service are often overlooked

by select committees, which need to concentrate on specific policy areas relating to government departments. A Whitehall spokesman said yesterday: "Mr Heseltine sees it as a prime function of his responsibilities to answer questions on the running of government and government's relationship with its agencies."

Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, will be called to answer detailed questions on issues concerning government executive agencies. Sir Robin and permanent secretaries across Whitehall are expected regularly to attend inquiries held by the Tory-dominated committee.

Although the Treasury and Civil Service sub-committee published an extensive report on the Civil Service last year, members complain that there is insufficient time to deal with Whitehall and the main committee's Treasury work, which has recently expanded to cover complex aspects of financial regulation.

One sub-committee member said: "There simply isn't time to consider all these issues in sufficient depth, and it makes sense to set up a separate committee, with specialist advisers, that can really get into the heart of the Civil Service."

THE TIMES/DILLONS DEBATE



THE most important issue facing industrial democracies is economic competitiveness. What makes some countries more successful than others? Are some nations blessed with the Midas touch?

Francis Fukuyama, who challenged the political and historical establishment with his controversial *The End of History*, is back. His latest book, *Trust: The Social Virtues and the Creation of Prosperity*, targets the world of business and global trade and is already creating controversy.

He will argue at this *Times/Dillons* debate tonight that a country's social and cultural characteristics play a crucial part in determining its prosperity. Political philosophers John Gray and Roger Scruton will debate this bold thesis with Fukuyama.

Chaired by Matthew D'Ancona of *The Times*, the debate will take place at Church House, Great Smith Street, SW1, at 7.30pm. Tickets (£10) are available at the door or by telephoning 0121 703 8113/8114.

Demand for disclosure will not simply go away

THE most far-reaching decisions the Commons will take before the end of the session in three weeks concern itself. The House will decide whether to make permanent the experimental change to its hours, which has already almost ended very late and all-night sittings, and more controversially, will have to reach decisions on the Nolan report. These will have a substantial impact on how MPs are viewed by the public.

Last night, the Select Committee on Standards in Public Life met for the first of three meetings this week to address the trickiest issues left unresolved in July. Much has already been accepted by the Commons, and is being implemented. The search is already under way for the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards who will monitor the register of MPs' interests, consider complaints about members' conduct and report to a proposed new Select Committee of Standards and Privileges. This represents a significant improvement on the present cumbersome and ineffective system. In addition, the Commons in July endorsed the principle of a code of conduct for MPs and the need for greater clarity on the register of interests.

But the most contentious items are still on the table — controls on the outside activities of MPs and disclosure of earnings. Discussions in the

select committee during the recess produced progress on the former, but not the latter. The two extreme positions of permitting anything or banning everything are clear cut. But producing a definition in between is fraught with problems. Nolan recommended that MPs should be banned from entering into any agreements in connection with their role as parliamentarians to undertake services for or on behalf of organisations which provide paid parliamentary services to multiple clients. As the first report of the select committee in July noted, even this statement is full of ambiguities. What, for example, is the distinction between multi-client lobbyists and firms of accountants and lawyers? At Westminster, some of the blame for failing to remove these loose ends from the Nolan report is being put on Sir Clifford Boulton, who became a member of the inquiry after retiring as Clerk of the Commons a year ago.

Several members of the select committee favour a different approach, targeting activities rather than links with specific companies. Sir Terence Higgins, the veteran Tory parliamentarian, has argued that the distinction should be between activities that reach into the House and advice from the House to those

outside. The former would be unacceptable and the latter acceptable. On parallel lines, Iain Duncan Smith, Tory MP for Chingford, suggested in July that the House should update its 1947 resolution banning MPs from speaking, asking a question or sponsoring a Bill, motion or amendment in return for payment. Mr Duncan Smith's proposal would ban paid advocacy by MPs on behalf of others.

That approach, "offering a workable way forward, but still leaves the problem of disclosure. Most Tory MPs argue that a ban on advocacy makes it unnecessary to disclose payments from outside activities. It is highly unlikely that the committee will agree on this issue and will leave it for the House to decide.

Even if Tory MPs succeed in blocking disclosure of such outside earnings now, the matter will not go away. Tony Blair has already said Labour will demand full implementation of Nolan — and the public wants to go even further. The House, and the party leaders, need to consider a broader package including the pay of MPs and ministers, as well as the outside interests of MPs. Some members of the Nolan committee regret they did not comment on MPs' pay. Regaining voters' confidence in Parliament requires flair, not defensive prickliness.

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Guardian

Bosnian survivors reap ghastly harvest of death left by retreating Serbs

THE gang of four smelled of death and brandy, and their cart could have rolled straight out of a plague-ridden 17th-century street. Its wooden floor was stained a purple-hued black, yet the aroma that preceded the body collectors' approach was nothing compared to the horror in the field beyond.

Fifteen Muslim and Croat men lay sprawled on the ground, murdered by retreating Serb forces. Part of a forced labour gang from Sanski Most, they had each been shot in the back of the



More than 100 Muslim and Croat forced labourers died in the fields of western Bosnia with Serb bullets in the back of the head. Anthony Loyd reports

head outside the hamlet of Lukic about three weeks earlier, at the start of the Bosnian Army's offensive in the region. The scenario is becoming grimly familiar in western Bosnia-Herzegovina, and has

been repeated many times in isolated villages in the surrounding countryside. The Bosnian authorities say they have so far found 108 Muslim and Croat victims of Serb mass executions in the area, in

groups of between five and 30. Most had been shot; others had been bludgeoned to death. At least 40 cases have already been verified by foreign journalists.

The body collectors, all middle-aged Croats, walked to the corpses in silence and without hesitation: surprising, considering that they were survivors of the labour gang, and were to find the corpse of men they knew among the bodies.

Bosnian soldiers had laid blankets over the dead, and now the men pulled each one back to see who lay beneath.

The autumn has been warm, and the sun deprived the corpses of any dignity.

There were more than 3,500 Muslims and Croats in Sanski Most during the war. Although their position was strained among the Serb majority, survivors say that they were treated fairly until the beginning of the Bosnian's September offensive.

Then came the arrival of the Serb forces led by Zejko Razanovic, otherwise known as Arkan, and all the men from an ethnic minority were moved to a factory in the town,

while the old and women and children, were corralled in a nearby village, before being expelled across the front lines in central Bosnia.

Five hundred men were found alive in Sanski Most by the advancing Bosnian soldiers. Another 300 are missing, increasingly becoming accounted for in bullet-riddled groups in the hills.

The body collectors agreed that the task of stacking the 15 dead upon their cart was too much for the four of them. They waited in their stained clothes for more help to arrive

and the ghastly smell moved with them. "It's strange," said their leader dispassionately. "Our lives were normal until the offensive started and Arkan's people came. Now everything that was Muslim or Croatian is destroyed, and look what we must do."

In Moscow, Senior Western envoys yesterday made a final appeal to win Russia's commitment to send troops to Bosnia as part of a multinational peacekeeping force led by Nato (Richard Beeston writes).

In a desperate attempt to overcome the Kremlin's objections and deep misgivings in the Russian military, senior American, British, French and German diplomats lobbied the Russian leadership for what is regarded as a key component in making the Bosnian peace process work.

Richard Holbrooke, the American special envoy to the former Yugoslavia, said after talks with the Russians that the deal had still not been clinched. "These issues are very difficult," he said, before leaving for further talks in Belgrade, the Serb capital.

Algerians blamed for train bomb in central Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A BOMB believed to have been planted by Islamic extremists exploded on a Paris underground train during the morning rush-hour yesterday, injuring at least 29 people in the eighth terrorist incident in France since July.

The explosion happened soon after 7am as the train passed through a tunnel between the Musée d'Orsay and Saint Michel stations in central Paris.

Many of the injuries were caused by flying metal, and dozens suffered from smoke inhalation after having to walk for nearly a mile to get out of the smoke-filled tunnel. Two people underwent emergency amputations and five of the wounded were listed last night as in a serious condition.

The police said the bomb, placed under a seat in the second carriage of the train, was in a gas canister filled with nuts and bolts. It was similar to the devices used in the earlier terrorist attacks. Algerian extremists have claimed responsibility for the campaign, which so far has

killed seven people and injured about 160.

President Chirac cut short a trip through central France to return to Paris after the explosion. He vowed to "do everything to prevent and repress this fanatical violence".

Algeria's Armed Islamic Group (GIA), one of the most militant groups fighting to overthrow the military-installed Government in Algeria, issued a bulletin on October 7 threatening to pursue a "holy war" into the very heart of France and its large towns "in retaliation for French support of the Algerian Government".

Saint Michel station was also the target of this summer's first and bloodiest bomb attack, on July 25, when seven people were killed.

Yesterday the basement of the Musée d'Orsay, whose Impressionist paintings are a prime tourist attraction, was transformed into an emergency medical centre. The most seriously injured were treated on the station platform. "There was smoke all

around, there was screaming, one dazed passenger said. "We could hear one of the wounded lying on the rails and calling for help."

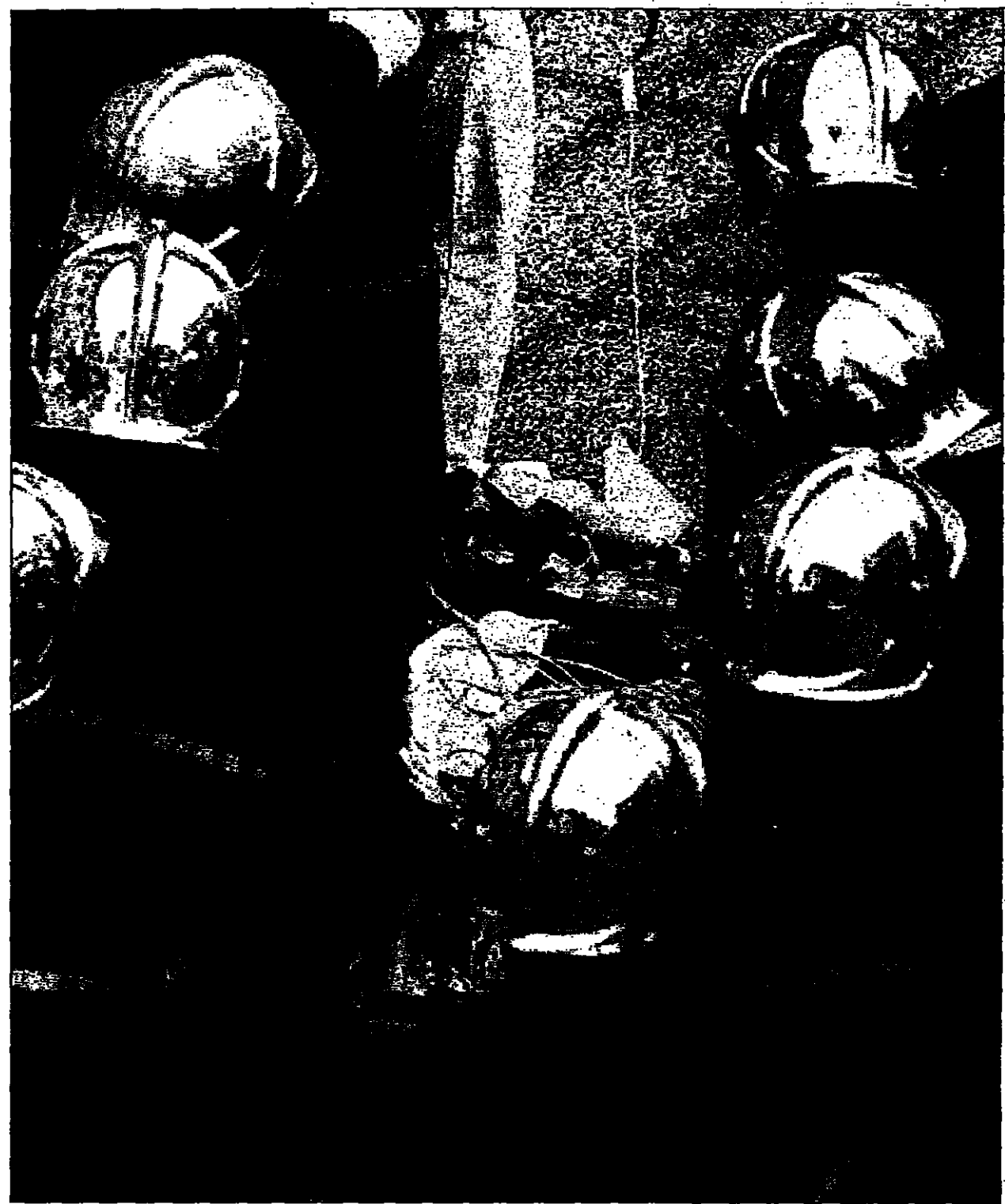
Investigators said it was extraordinarily lucky that more people were not injured or killed because the underground line is one of the busiest in Paris.

Minutes after the blast, the police arrested a man of North African appearance who was seen running from the Musée d'Orsay station. They said later that he was being held as a witness and not a suspect.

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, and Jean Tiberi, the Mayor of Paris, were among hundreds of officials, rescue workers, firemen and police who converged on the scene after the blast. The area was sealed off, plunging traffic along the Seine into chaos.

The latest attack indicates that the militants are intensifying their campaign in advance of presidential elections in Algeria on November 16 and next week's scheduled meeting in New York between President Chirac and his Algerian counterpart, President Zeroual. Paris has denied that it amounts to an endorsement of Mr Zeroual's candidature.

A leaflet from a group called al-Ansar, regarded as a GIA mouthpiece, was quoted by the London-based Arabic newspaper *al-Hayat* last weekend warning France not to interfere in Algerian politics. It also condemned the killing of Khaled Kelkal, the suspected terrorist shot dead by the police last month.



Firemen attend to an injured passenger near the Musée d'Orsay station. Most of the injuries were caused by shrapnel.



Police detain a man who was seen running from the Musée d'Orsay station. He is being held as a witness.

Network of terror began in Afghanistan

BY GEORGE BROCK
EUROPEAN EDITOR

BESIEGED and bewildered by a series of bomb attacks which have killed and maimed Paris commuters, the French Government is slowly being forced to acknowledge that it faces a terrorist campaign of unusual ruthlessness and tenacity, whose roots stretch back to the war of the Afghan Mujahidin against Soviet occupation.

As the French-backed government in Algeria has been dragged into a low-intensity civil war with Islamic insurgents which has killed some 40,000 people in five years, arrests, seizures and intelligence operations have revealed a resilient network whose key members all fought for the Islamic cause in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

Hundreds of young Algerian, Tunisian, Egyptian, Sudanese and Pakistani Muslims passed through the training camps and Islamic relief

organisations in northern Pakistan. When the Soviet Union's battered soldiers left Afghanistan in 1989, battle-hardened fighters trickled back into radical Islamic groups in their own countries, but their common experience also knitted together a clandestine multinational network.

They showed an uncompromising readiness to undertake high-risk, high-casualty attacks in Europe, America and moderate Arab states. Western intelligence has traced the presence of "Afghans" in Algeria, France, Egypt, Kashmir and in the group accused of bombing the World Trade Centre in New York.

The bomb attacks in France have mostly been claimed by the GIA, or Armed Islamic Group, a loose confederation of armed squads. Its current leader and the most wanted man in Algeria is thought to be Djamel Zitouni, who operates under the nom de guerre Abu Abderrahman Amin. Zitouni rose to prominence in the

GIA by running a death squad composed of Afghan war veterans. He recently vowed to kill "the Jews, Christians and criminals of the Islamic land of Algeria".

While the aims may be cruelly primitive, the GIA's techniques are up to date. An investigator looking into an arms supply route from Slovakia to Algeria, via Germany and Switzerland, found that Algerian suspects had been trying to buy arms over the Internet.

The Algerian security services have dispatched large delegations to France, Switzerland, Denmark and other west European capitals to persuade governments to turn over Algerian radicals sheltering well away from Algeria itself. They cite suspects such as Lounes Bahoulou, who is suspected of organising a bomb which caused dozens of deaths in central Algeria last January. Born in Algeria, Bahoulou was active in Afghanistan in 1986. He returned secretly to Algeria in

1993, where he was asked by the GIA to set up a car bombing team.

The difficulty which the French authorities are having in getting a grip on this elusive enemy can be measured by their inability to act on advance warnings. On July 1 the Algerian newspaper *La Tribune* reported that a five-man GIA team had left Bosnia for France and that an elderly imam was among their targets. The imam was shot ten days later near his mosque in Paris. The bomb attacks which followed were designed to avenge the killing by French commandos of four GIA hijackers who seized an Air France jet last January.

Algerians: Gunmen killed a second Algerian journalist in two days, the victim's newspaper reported yesterday. Said Djebaili, 27, a reporter with *El Hayat el Arabia* (Arab Life) was shot while she was in a car. On Sunday gunmen murdered Abdelwahad Sadaoui, 43, the commercial director of *El Chaab*. (AP)

THE explosion yesterday was the eighth in a series of bomb attacks in France which have killed seven people and wounded more than 160 since July.

July 25: Gas-canister bomb explodes in rush-hour express train at crowded Saint Michel metro station in central Paris, killing seven and injuring 85.

August 17: Gas-canister bomb packed with nails explodes in bin outside metro station near Arc de Triomphe in Paris, wounding 17.

August 26: A 55lb bomb planted by a rail line north of Lyons fails to go off because of faulty trigger mechanism.

September 3: Pressure-cooker bomb packed with nails and bolts misfires in market in central Paris, wounding four. Detonator failed to ignite the rest of the explosive.

September 4: Police defuse 55lb gas-canister bomb which had been set to explode in a crowded open-air central Paris market.

September 7: Car bomb explodes in Lyons suburb.

September 28: Gendarmes kill Khaled Kelkal, Algerian-born criminal whose fingerprints were found on the August 26 bomb. Row breaks out over whether he could have been captured alive.

October 6: Gas-canister bomb explodes in southeast Paris just hours after Kelkal's funeral, wounding 13.

October 7: Statement in name of GIA claims responsibility for attacks and threatens more.

October 17: Bomb explodes on Paris underground train near Saint Michel station. (Reuters)

Woman of 120 sets a record in living

By BEN MACINTYRE

A RECORD was set yesterday by Jeanne Calment, she reached the age of 120 years 238 days, older than anybody else known to history.

Mme Calment, a Frenchwoman, has survived one day longer than the Japanese Methuselah, Shigechiyo Izumi, who died in 1986.

There have been earlier claimants to the title of oldest person, such as the Iranian man who died last February at the professed age of 140, but they have never been proved and most were obvious exaggerations. Mme Calment, however, has the documents to prove her longevity.

There were about 700 million people on Earth when Mme Calment was born at Arles on February 21, 1875, and she has outlived them all. She was 20 when cinema was invented by the Lumière brothers; she was 59, married and had a 16-year-old daughter when the First World War erupted; she attained French retirement age at 65 almost half her life ago, in the year that Hitler invaded France.

Fragile, blind and partly deaf, Mme Calment recently acquired a bright green wheelchair to get round her room at the Maison du Lac retirement home in Arles where she has lived since 1965.

A widow for half a century, Mme Calment has no living descendants. Her daughter died in 1934 and her only grandson in 1963. "The good Lord seems to have forgotten about me," she says.

Mme Calment spent yesterday quietly at home, but a champagne party with friends will be held in her honour today. Her nurses say the renewed media attention may give her another lease of life for, in her own words, she "waits for death ... and journalists".

"Queen Jeanne", as she is known, gave up smoking at the age of 117, but still smokes her tobacco and her daily glass of port.

Mme Calment puts her longevity down to a few basic principles: keep laughing, keep dreaming, take exercise, avoid stress and do not work too hard. To keep the skin supple, she recommends a little olive oil mixed with the make-up.

In *The Times* last Saturday, Norris McWhirter, founder of *The Guinness Book of Records*, estimated that Mme Calment's heart has beaten more than 4.25 billion times; she has no intention of allowing it to stop yet. At today's celebration the still elegant grande dame plans to wear a black and white dress made by a top Paris couturier.

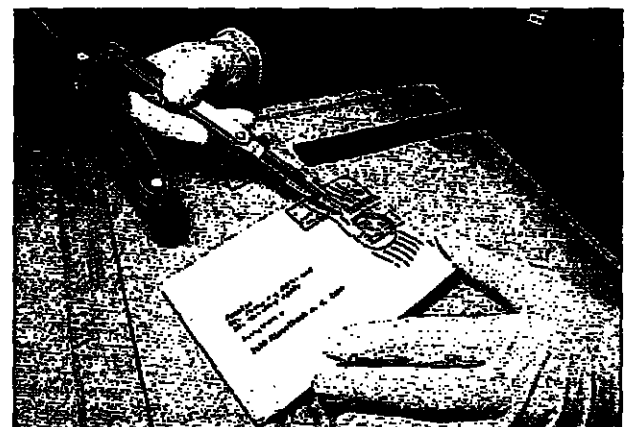
December poll for jittery Austrians

FROM REUTERS
IN VIENNA

THE Austrian Government ordered a general election for December 17 yesterday as it grappled with a fresh wave of suspected neo-Nazi letter bombings and sought to calm jittery markets.

Franz Vranitzky, the Chancellor, and his ministers set the election date at their last cabinet session. Austrian shares crashed to their lowest level since July 1993 as investors, scared by political uncertainty after last week's fall of the coalition Government, fled the market in droves.

As the police hunted suspected neo-Nazis behind 22 months of unrelenting attacks, Herr Vranitzky urged campaigning politicians not to play on public anxieties. "It is the duty of all campaign participants to define their positions in such a way that the debate does not lead to



An unexploded letter bomb on display yesterday

political destabilisation," he said. Caspar Eimer, Interior Minister, said three letter bombs in Monday's mail, two of which injured a doctor and a social worker, were smaller and more complex than previous devices. He described likely suspects as believers in a racist Nazi creed of "blood and soil".

The police said one letter bore the logo of an extremist group that has claimed responsibility for past bombings. A dozen people have been maimed by exploding packets. Politicians were playing down ideas that the latest attacks were linked to the poll, suggesting instead a connection

with the trial of two neo-Nazis accused of sending the first series of such bombs in December 1993.

Jörg Haider, the far-right Freedom Party leader, suggested yesterday that the new attacks were aimed at stopping him, an idea dubbed absurd by Brigitte Ederer, the Social Democrat campaign manager.

A weekend opinion poll indicated that Herr Haider's anti-immigrant, anti-European party was gaining in popularity and put its support at 27 per cent — a point up on Austria's second biggest party, the OeVP, and three points behind the Social Democrats.

Farmers protest over EU subsidies

Bonn. Angry farmers used tractors and carts of manure to bring Bonn to a standstill yesterday in an unruly dispute over subsidies that may pit Germany against Britain (Roger Boyes writes).

The "peasants revolt" stems from the high international value of the mark. This is pricing German food products out of European markets. The farmers want compensation in the form of lower VAT payments. That, however, would entail a decision by European finance ministers and Britain is unlikely to agree.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, has promised to tackle the problem. Herr Waigel is a Bavarian and the bulk of the protesting farmers come from Bavaria. Thus, there is a strong chance that the Government will give way; then Bonn will have to convince its more sceptical European Union partners.

Chirac plans German visit to patch up relations with Kohl

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

PRESIDENT CHIRAC is to have talks with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, next week to try to settle some of the Franco-German quarrels that have blighted European politics and confounded the markets over recent months.

M. Chirac's visit to Germany will cap a frenetic fortnight in which parliamentarians and ministers from both sides of the Rhine have sought agreement on issues as diverse as nuclear testing, monetary union and Europol, the European police agency. It also comes a few days before a more complex set of talks between M. Chirac and John Major in London.

Herr Kohl's governing Christian Democratic Union has given his European policies full backing at its three-day party conference at Karlsruhe. There has been no flicker of criticism in public over the moves towards a single currency even though many party members are worried about its effects on the

1998 election campaign. Wolfgang Schäuble, the floor leader in parliament, warned delegates yesterday that Social Democrats like Oskar Lafontaine, the Saarland Premier, would exploit the issue.

The Social Democrat line on monetary union suggests that the party will try to outbid the Christian Democrats as the party of rigour, insisting on the strictest possible adherence to the convergence criteria laid out in the Maastricht treaty. The nervousness of the Christian Democrat Union about a single European currency has clearly influenced Herr Kohl's so far unspoken, but increasingly obvious, intention of staying in office until 2000, two years beyond the next election.

In return for Herr Kohl agreeing to stay at the helm, the party has approved a broad resolution on Europe which gives Herr Kohl virtually a free hand. Foreign and security policy, the resolution says, should be decided by

qualified majority voting when the decision does not have any military dimension.

Decisions involving military force or having military consequences should be made according to a different set of rules. No country should be obliged to take part in a common policy against its will, but neither should a majority of states wishing to undertake joint military action, be blocked by a minority.

The resolution says the first Central European states should be admitted to the European Union "around 2000". Europol should be subject to the control of the European Parliament and the legal control of the European Court of Justice, it says.

A senior Christian Democrat strategist said yesterday: "The Chancellor will now be able to turn to President Chirac and say: this is the political agenda. The fact is, many of us did not much want monetary union in the first place. If France wants it, they

must do their bit in pushing forward political union. Now is the time for Chirac to say something clearly in the German people."

Franco-German relations are now so delicate that Herr Kohl is determined to keep the issue out of the party political domain. Debate at the congress was very carefully steered, and critics have been muted. The Chancellor's speech on Monday was noteworthy in not mentioning a union. Ministers are now saying openly that it cannot go ahead without France.

Herr Schäuble believes France and Germany must embark on a series of foreign policy initiatives that will again restore a sense of joint action. Karl Lamers, the Christian Democrat European expert, has set up a joint parliamentary working group with French deputies, but that seems to be designed more as a safety valve than to generate new initiatives.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18 1995

Prophet of hatred becomes voice of black America

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WHITE America found itself confronted by a new black leader yesterday, and Louis Farrakhan, head of the militant Nation of Islam, is far more threatening than his predecessors.

Mr Farrakhan's opponents tried to separate the message from the messenger before Monday's 'Million Man March', but he triumphed nonetheless. Standing on the steps of the US Capitol, surrounded by bodyguards and bulletproof glass, he positively

crowded at the sight of 400,000 black men stretching far into the distance below him. He was the man God chose to bring this record through together, he declared. To separate him from the product of his labour was like separating 'Moses from the Torah, or Jesus from the Gospel, or Muhammad from the Koran'. The turnout easily eclipsed the 250,000 who heard Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech at the opposite end of the Mall in 1963.

Dr King called for racial harmony in a 19-minute address considered one of the finest in American history. Mr Farrakhan railed against 'white supremacy' in a rambling 2½-hour diatribe and a separatist philosophy inspired his demands for black discipline and self-reliance. Whites and women came in droves to Dr King's great rally, but were not even invited to this.

Among the marchers themselves there was scarcely any racial antagonism. A Washington Post survey indicated that only a third had come to support Mr Farrakhan. More than half of them were there primarily to pledge responsibility for their families and communities.

But despite Mr Farrakhan's long record of bigotry, these predominantly young, well-educated blacks heeded his call because he alone offered a remedy for the wretched plight of black Americans.

The Post survey indicated that 83 per cent felt there was a dearth of black leaders capable of articulating black concerns. Old civil rights organisations have failed to deliver. The Democrats, traditional defenders of black interests, have lost power in Congress and are scarcely resisting as Newt Gingrich's Republicans chop away the social security net on which so many blacks depend.

Mr Farrakhan was filling the void, Roger Wilkins, a black historian at Washington's George Mason University, said. 'Responsible black people have been trying to get the attention of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party for a long time to tell them that black people were unemployed at double-digit levels for two decades, that black teenagers are in trouble, black families are falling apart

largely because they do not have adequate incomes. White people have not listened.

Their response was Gingrich's programmes to punish the poor. By ignoring moderate black leaders, they sowed the seeds for the emergence of Farrakhan as a more important figure in American life."

Leading American politicians were appalled by Mr Farrakhan's triumph. "How has normal leadership failed so totally that African-Americans turn to Louis Farrakhan?" Mr Gingrich, the House Speaker, asked. "If the pain level is big enough that he makes sense, then we need to find real solutions." But whether and how the parties respond to Monday's stark warning remains to be seen.

A few senior Republicans point out that Mr Farrakhan's message of personal responsibility is very like Mr Gingrich's, and see a chance to enlist blacks in an unbeatable conservative coalition.

Leading article, page 17



Christopher Reeve and his wife, Dana, right, are greeted by Susan Sarandon and Robin Williams, the actors, before a dinner in New York

Wheelchair-bound actor tells of his first laugh

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ON HIS first public engagement since being paralysed after falling off a horse, Christopher Reeve, the actor who played Superman, has described laughing for the first time since his accident. Mr Reeve, who arrived by wheelchair at a dinner in New York, was greeted by prolonged applause.

He attended the event to present a prize to Robin Williams, his long-standing friend and fellow actor. It was Mr Williams who had coaxed him to that first laugh when, disguised as a crazed Russian doctor, he visited Mr Reeve in hospital.

Mr Reeve, 42, recalled that Mr Williams was clad in "blue scrub hat and a yellow gown with a Russian accent" and leapt around the room in

due manner: "I laughed for the first time since my accident. I knew life was going to be okay."

Mr Williams, who has known Mr Reeve for 22 years, maintained the humour at Monday night's dinner. The award presented to him was a miniature spotlight. He opened his remarks by saying: "Before we mount this new headlight on Chris's wheelchair..."

Mr Reeve smiled broadly at such digs and spoke of a schoolteacher who had once admonished him about truancy with the words, "the only excuse you could have is a quadruple amputation, and even then you could come to school in a basket". Mr Reeve concluded: "So I thought I'd better show up this evening."

Leading article, page 17

Libya is pushed out of its UN council seat

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A DIPLOMATIC campaign by Britain and the United States, provoked by the Lockerbie bombings, has forced Libya to miss its turn on the United Nations Security Council.

In accordance with a strict policy of rotation, Libya was due to start a two-year term in January as one of Africa's representatives on the 15-nation council. However, Britain and the United States complained that Tripoli did not deserve the seat while it was still subject to UN sanctions for refusing to turn over the two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan-Am flight 103 over Scotland.

British and American diplomats prevented Libya from winning the two-thirds majority of UN members that it would need to be elected to the Security Council. Tripoli announced yesterday that it was bowing out of the contest. Diplomats said the seat would go to Egypt.

Dole's campaign first to top \$20m

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

SENATOR Robert Dole, reinforcing his position as the frontrunner, yesterday became the first Republican to collect more than \$20 million (\$22 million in contributions) for his attempt to win the presidential nomination.

The impressive campaign machine of Mr Dole, who has faced Republican criticism in recent months for failing to offer a credible alternative to President Clinton, proved its underlying strength this week when he raised \$1 million at a single dinner in New York.

That places him well ahead of Phil Gramm and Lamar Alexander, his fellow Republicans, as well as of President Clinton, who expects to have \$20 million by the end of the year. General Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has yet to announce his candidature. If he fails to do so, the sheer weight of the Dole juggernaut may give the Senate majority leader his party's nomination.



Manhattan with Governors Island in the foreground

New York weighs up sale of island

BY QUENTIN LETTS

A LARGE and barely developed island in New York harbour is to fall empty, making it potentially the most valuable land in the world. Governors Island, 175 acres near the Statue of Liberty, has been used as a military base for 212 years but is to be vacated in 1998.

The US Coast Guard, which occupies the partly wooded island, is closing its operation in a cost-cutting move. There is speculation that the site, which has views of the lower Manhattan skyline, will become an expensive residential estate.

Originally known as Nut Island for its walnut trees, the land was bought in 1627 by a Dutch official from the Manhattan Indians, who drove a hard bargain: some masts, a string of beads, and two axesheads. Today you could offer all the axesheads in

the world and it would still not be enough. One valuation, probably modest, has Governors Island worth \$500 million (£317 million).

New York's mayoral office is to investigate all options. The case could demonstrate the degree to which New York planners have caught the "if it doesn't move, preserve it" mood of some of their British counterparts. The New York Times believes that an auction to developers is possible and The New Yorker magazine has noted worry that the cells of Castle Williams, the island stockade, command good views of lower Manhattan and that "though on the cozy side, they could make for smashing apartments". Donald Trump, the developer, considers the island "great visually, great artistically, and great for security". It is accessible by ferry.

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Climate experts predict 100-year drought in Africa

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

SOUTHERN Africa is facing a catastrophe of unprecedented proportions, according to scientists who predict a drought lasting for 100 years.

The forecast, by British scientists at the University of East Anglia, comes as researchers meet in Montreal to discuss the impact of global warming.

The researchers, members of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, have concluded that global warming is under way and is now fact rather than speculation.

Mike Hulme, a scientist at the University of East Anglia, said yesterday: "This changes the dynamics of the science completely. Instead of having to prove climate change is happening, the cynics have to prove it is not happening."

The forecasts for the impact on Southern Africa, including Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa, are based on computer models of current rainfall and temperatures that have been matched to models of climate change.

While the forecasts show that some years may have cooler periods with rainfall, the overall trend is for the region to become drier and hotter.

Dr David Cumming, the World Wide Fund for Nature's senior conservation officer in

Harare, the Zimbabwean capital, said yesterday: "Increasing aridity will only exacerbate the already considerable problems of feeding the region. It will also hinder industrial and urban development. Given that population growth is around 3 per cent per year, this has serious implications for the future."

The WWF, which has funded the studies, has carried out research into the impact on wildlife.

Adam Markham, the director of the WWF climate programme, said species facing the greatest threat were those living in the upland grasslands near the Cape of Good Hope. They include mountain zebra, grey rhebok, grysbok, mountain reedbuck, black wildebeest, bontebok and blesbok.

Larger species, such as elephants and hippopotami, are also expected to suffer.

The findings will be presented to policy-makers from southern African states at a meeting in Harare next week.

Parts of the region have suffered low rainfall for 13 years. Many villagers in western Zimbabwe have, because of crop failures, become increasingly dependent on international food aid. In Harare, water reserves are down to ten months and there are power

shortages. The Kariba Dam, which produces most of the country's hydroelectricity, is running at 14 per cent capacity.

The report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to be officially unveiled in Rome in December, has concluded for the first time that global rises in temperature can be partly blamed on industrial activity, which increases emissions of gases such as carbon dioxide that trap the sun's heat.

Dr Thomas Karl, of the National Climatic Data Centre in Asheville, North Carolina, who is an author of part of the panel's Working Group I report, says in the journal *Science*, that they have also traced an increase in weather extremes since the 1970s, including hurricanes and extreme downpours.

The UN climate change report warns that tropical diseases like dengue fever, malaria and yellow fever are spreading with rising global temperatures. Harvests in southern Africa may fall by about a fifth.

In Britain, temperatures could fall to those of Labrador. Britain and western Europe are kept warm by the Gulf Stream, but changing weather could shift it south, away from the British Isles.



Kenyan riot police beat a youth in the Kibera slums of Nairobi as ethnic clashes in which four people have died raged for the third day. The police shot and wounded two people yesterday as rival

Kenya slum battle rages

young Luo and Nubians patrolled with knives, clubs, spears and stones. Witnesses said the anti-riot General Service Unit clubbed people to quell the violence. One man, 22, was shot in the thigh and a woman was wounded in the shin. The clashes have political overtones because Luo dominate the opposition Forum for the Restoration of Democracy while the Nubians back the ruling Kana party. (Reuters)

Palestinian behind the Olympic massacre finally admits guilt

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN FRANKFURT

ABU DAOUD, the Palestinian leader, has admitted for the first time responsibility for the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, in an autobiography completed in time for the Frankfurt Book Fair.

Abu Daoud — his real name is Muhammad Daoud Audh — is negotiating with the French publisher Anne Carrière for the exclusive rights to his memoirs.

Mme Carrière said that the 58-year-old militant wanted to set up a team with special commands and money. Abu Daoud cannot supply them. Israeli raids are continuing in southern Lebanon. The Fatah army is powerless. In June 1972 was born the idea of striking at the next Olympic Games. Abu Daoud was given responsibility for preparing and supervising the operation.

The attack on the Israeli team took place on September 5, 1972, on the eve of the

opening of the Games. Eleven Israeli athletes were killed, as were four members of the Palestinian group and two German policemen.

The West German Government immediately blamed the extremist Palestinian group Black September, of which Abu Daoud was a founder.

A synopsis of the memoirs includes a chapter entitled "Munich, the truth". It reads: "To fight the [Israeli secret service] Mossad in Europe, organised networks need to be set up there, with special commands and money. Abu Daoud cannot supply them. Israeli raids are continuing in southern Lebanon. The Fatah army is powerless. In June 1972 was born the idea of striking at the next Olympic Games. Abu Daoud was given responsibility for preparing and supervising the operation."

Abu Daoud, who has been a member of Fatah — the main component of the Palestine Liberation Organisation — since 1964, met Yasser Arafat, the PLO chief, in 1968. He played a key role in the bloody clashes that pitted Fatah guerrillas against troops of King Hussein of Jordan in September 1970 — hence Black September — and again in 1973, which resulted in a victory for the Jordanians. He was arrested in Paris on January 8, 1977, by the DST, the French counter-espionage service. Despite the international warrant issued by Germany for his arrest, and another issued by the Israelis as soon as they knew he had been detained, Abu Daoud was released on January 11.

The French Government ordered him to be expelled to Algeria and the affair trig-

gered a diplomatic row with the Israeli Government, which recalled its ambassador.

Little was heard about Abu Daoud in subsequent years, although on August 5, 1981, he was hit by five bullets in Warsaw. He surfaced again in 1983 in Algiers, when he entered the Palestine National Council, and again in 1987 when he tried to negotiate a reconciliation between Mr Arafat and President Assad of Syria.

Israeli and Western intelligence services found Abu Daoud several times in East Germany during the 1980s. In 1992, he emerged to give an interview "on behalf of the PLO" to a Tunisian newspaper in which he denied any involvement of the PLO in the bomb that brought down the Boeing 747 over Lockerbie in 1988, killing 270 people.

Attacks blamed on Syria

Jerusalem: Israel's Cabinet yesterday gave the army "freedom of action" against the Shia Muslim group Hezbollah and accused Iran and Syria of aiding Hezbollah guerrillas.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, charged Syria with encouraging attacks on Israeli troops in an attempt to force concessions at the negotiating table. Israeli-Syrian peace talks remain deadlocked after four years.

Mr Rabin said that Hezbollah was transferring money, men and arms through Syrian-controlled territory. (AP)

Russia denies submarine crash

Moscow: A Russian military official denied a Japanese newspaper report that a Chinese nuclear submarine sank after a collision with a similar Soviet vessel off Vladivostok in 1983. The *Shimbu* report said all 70 crew on the Chinese submarine drowned in the accident in June 1983. Six years after the sinking, the *Shimbu* added, Soviet scientists "detected extremely strong radioactivity at the site", 60 miles southeast of Vladivostok. (Reuters)

Turkish leader waits for reply

Istanbul: President Demirel of Turkey kept his Prime Minister waiting for his approval of her planned new government (Andrew Finkel writes). Mr Demirel spent the day consulting party leaders and appeared to be in no hurry to respond to Tansu Ciller's request that she be allowed to reforge a coalition between her True Path Party and the Republican People's Party.

Seoul shoots frogman 'spy'

Injin River, South Korea: South Korea said its troops shot and killed a suspected North Korean spy in a frogman suit and launched a hunt for other possible infiltrators. Seoul, which believes the man may have been part of a team, set up 850 roadblocks and said the military would take strong counter-action if there was a recurrence. (Reuters)

Field warfare

Cherepovets, Russia: An army anti-aircraft unit north of Moscow is advertising old and empty missiles for sale in a local paper, suggesting that they could be filled with sand and used as scarecrows. (AP)

Zambia threatens to deport 'alien' Kaunda

Lusaka: Kenneth Kaunda, the former President of Zambia, was facing possible deportation yesterday after the Government said he had ruled the country illegally because he was not a Zambian.

In the latest twist in the increasingly bitter battle between President Chiluba and the former leader, who is trying to make a political comeback, Chitalu Sampa, the Home Affairs Minister, said that Mr Kaunda, 71, could be deported for allegedly ruling Zambia illegally from independence in 1964

until 1970 when he renounced his Malawian citizenship. "The Government is satisfied the former President is not a Zambian and work is being done to see the law is applied ... We are investigating and shall deal with him like any other alien," Mr Sampa said.

Mr Kaunda has not commented on the allegations that he did not renounce his Malawian citizenship until 1970. Ministers say he did not apply for Zambian citizenship immediately after independence as required by law. (Reuters)



Kaunda: application for citizenship "came too late"

Mother seeks right to demonstrate

Hong Kong: In a move unique in the long history of Chinese dissidents, the mother of one of Peking's most famous political prisoners has asked the police for permission to demonstrate for his release (Jonathan Mirsky writes). Wu Yongfen has applied to the Peking Bureau of Public Security to march alone

through Peking on behalf of her son, Chen Ziming, who received a 13-year sentence after the 1989 Tiananmen demonstrations, charged as one of the behind-the-scenes "black hands" who had provoked the students.

She said that her goal was the immediate release of Chen Ziming on medical pa-

role and to save his life". Chen has cancer and hepatitis B and his bank account has been frozen since July to stop him buying medicine.

He was paroled last year as an act of goodwill to persuade President Clinton to renew China's most favoured nation trading status and returned to detention last June.

Saddam rift with 'heir' rejected

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A SENIOR Iraqi government member attempted yesterday to deny reports of a rift between President Saddam Hussein and his son, Uday, seen as his potential "heir".

Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister, said there was no tension between the President and his son. He also denied that Uday was an important political figure.

Speaking in Baghdad, Mr Aziz said: "Those who have a significant political role are the President, the Revolutionary Command Council, the Baath party branches in the provinces and the ministers." Mr Aziz, presumed to be speaking with Saddam's authority, said: "Others are not significant and Uday Saddam Hussein is not a member in any of these bodies."

Western intelligence reports show, however, that Uday may have angered his father by building up a militia of about 15,000 well-armed soldiers. The force was formed earlier this year to provide Saddam with additional "loyal" troops to protect him and his regime and to subdue internal opposition. However, Uday is suspected of developing the militia for his own use.

Responding to the reports Uday, Mr Aziz said all families had problems. "Look at the royal family [in Britain]," he said. He added that Ronald Reagan, the former US President, had a son who did not get on with his father and a daughter who appeared in *Playboy*.



Winnie Mandela: wants counselling to take place

Court hears Mandela divorce case

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE MANDELA believes that her marriage to President Mandela can be saved, but if his action for divorce is successful, she will claim half his personal estate.

This was stated in papers lodged by her lawyers in the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg yesterday at the start of the hearing which, they say, could last for up to a year as both of them will be required to give evidence.

Mrs Mandela contends that her husband has not followed African tradition in seeking reconciliation, family cohesion and forgiveness, nor has he recognised her role "in immortalising his global profile". She believes that with counselling, including an *inkandla*, a traditional Xhosa family gathering, there would be a reasonable chance of repairing the marriage.

In August Mr Mandela's lawyers announced that he was seeking an amicable divorce, but the indications are that the action will be bitter.



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Next summer's look: something lacy, something brightly coloured and something see-through

Return of the pretty woman



Hooded, see-through, layered lace dress: **HELMUT LANG**
Photographs by **CHRIS MOORE**



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Right: elementary
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It was not so long ago that the Carrousel du Louvre, the giant underground fashion show venue with its three catwalk stages, was opened in Paris. This purpose-built auditorium was intended to be the answer to every weary fashion editor's prayer. Now the designers would all be able to present their collections under one roof in the centre of the city, making everyone's life easier. Except, of course, it hasn't.

In reality, the majority of designers unveiling their new collections for spring/summer 1996 in Paris this week chose to do so elsewhere. In tiny showrooms, vast warehouses, hotels, museums, a theatre, a school, a tea room, and even a working men's club.

The fashion statements being offered by the designers are equally disparate. Although some trends emerged, such as bright colours (especially yellow and green), lace, suede, flesh tones and zip fasteners, most designers continued to do their own thing. Hemlines were anywhere from thigh to ankle length. Whereas last season's con-

PARIS



Fashion
by
IAIN R. WEBB

servative chic saw designers offering practically identical smart shift dresses, their only affinity this time was their use of diaphanous fabrics. Although Helmut Lang's followers will be happy enough to pull on a nylon lace dress over visible underwear, it is harder to imagine the clientele of Hermès getting excited by the label's see-through chiffon belboy jackets and matching trousers. Better were the bluish sueded, pastel knits and creamy leathers.

This season Lang's collection remained one of the most directional. His pretty layered lace and stretch net separates look destined to be copied with

the same eagerness as his plastic dresses were previously.

"Pretty" is probably the only consistent theme running through the collections. The overall mood is lighter and certainly brighter. This has been a good season for the Japanese, who surprisingly went wild for colour. Rei Kawakubo at Comme des Garçons sent out a relentless stream of jersey outfits in screeching neon stripes and squares. Although Yohji Yamamoto still prefers black, white and navy for most of his cleverly tailored pieces, when he did use colour it was spot on: swirly print pyjama suits in bright orange, red, yellow, mint green, and sky blue.

John Galliano's wildly baroque presentation at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées was full of ideas — too many of which we have seen before. But his broderie anglaise lace communion dresses, with their puffed sleeves, pleats and handkerchief hems, were a delight. Galliano is indeed a clever fellow for just when you thought you had seen one too many sugarplum fairy costumes he sent out a handful of plain black suits and dresses.

Vivienne Westwood also drew inspiration from her curvy catalogue, modifying her latest look gives dresses and jackets a fitted appearance at the front, adding a swagger of fabric at the back.

At Christian Dior, Gianfranco Ferré also pared down his elegant collection while Christian Lacroix continued to play with fabric, pattern and colour mixes.

There was not much of a mixture at Anne Demeulemeester's show. Her fine leather dresses were uncompromisingly monotone. They came either backless, or featuring a single diagonal shoulder strap.

Two of the prettiest collec-



Pyjama suit: **YAMAMOTO**

tions in Paris were the work of a Briton, John Rocha, and an American, Steven Slouk. Rocha's boxy jackets, to-the-knee straight skirts, narrow trousers and simple dresses, mixed yellow, pale apple green, lilac, soft gold and electric blue with milky cream.

Slouk, presenting his debut show in Paris under his own name (previously he created the Ferragamo line in Milan), cut simple, understated day-wear shapes in sumptuous fabrics — stretch satin, taffeta, and velvet coloured pale blue, mauve, lime, orange and pink. A small collection from a big talent.

Margaret Murton's Elizabethan Vase

From Ehrman Tapestry



An Elizabethan embroidery caught Margaret Murton's imagination and inspired her to produce this lovely design. Cool, clear colours predominate. The vase is stitched in various shades of grey and is set on a crisp background of frosted white. The stylised flowers are a mix of periwinkle, turquoise and peacock green while the patterned border sparkles with a jewel-like intensity: sapphire and cobalt blue, butterscotch, gold and pure green shine from a navy background and create a brilliant frame of ceramic colour.

Measuring 15.5" x 15.5" the design is printed in full colour on 12 holes to the inch canvas. 100% pure new wool from the Appleton range is used and the pattern can be worked in either half-cross or tent stitch. The kit costs £37.50 including postage and packing and comes complete with wool, canvas, needle, instruction leaflet and a black and white symbol chart for cross-reference. When ordering use FREEPOST — no stamp is needed.

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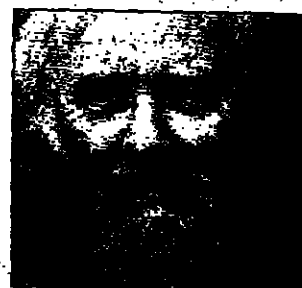
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سماح الاموال

On the day the Government published its vision for the countryside, Libby Purves reports from Dorsetshire

Ambridge's verdict on Gummer's England

THE closest most Britons ever come to country living is when we tune in to *The Archers*. How will yesterday's publication of *Rural England*, the Government's White Paper, affect the fictional Ambridge? The document details a commitment to the village post office and general store, extends the powers of parish councils, and lays out plans to save wildlife, hedgerows and dry-stone walls. So what do the residents of the country's favourite village make of it?



Phil Archer
Senior farmer

Increasingly ceding power to his pushy son David and Georgie's feminist daughter-in-law. As a JP, he will like Mr Gummer's special constables, but may gibe at the idea of closed-circuit TV on the green.



Brian Aldridge
Grasping agribusinessman

The relaxation of planning permissions could enable him to pack in his venison farming and 'pay-as-you-jump' cross-country course and do a deal with some shady housing developer.



A portrait of Ambridge, the best-known rural village in England: the numbers indicate where members of the cast live and below are their likely views

David & Charles



Kate Aldridge
New Age ex-maniac

Now living her PC, vegetarian, druggy life free in one of daddy's holiday cottages, Kate will be pleased about the hedgerow 'protection', but probably firebomb daddy's dodgy building projects.



Jack Woolley
Owner of Grey Gables

Elderly Brummie who also owns the village shop and post office, and has therefore received a large present in rate relief. His assistance will guarantee that he give it to local good causes.



Susan Carter
Hard-up estate secretary

Former Horrobin married to one-time pigman Neil, a feed rep who can't sell. If their children are to have any future, there has to be affordable, protected housing. White Paper improves their chances.



Eddie Grundy
Feckless tenant farmer

Once Eddie discovers that Mr Gummer wants planning authorities to be more broad-minded about use of farm buildings, it can only be a matter of time before the turkey shed is a stripperama.



Lynda Snell
Busybody parvenue

Brought to penury by her husband's company collapse. The appeal for volunteers to run minibuses will find her horribly ready. Will run the service with the leadership talent of Captain Mainwaring.



Guy Pemberton
Benevolent old duffer

Owns the former Bellamy estate. Now that the right-to-buy for housing association tenants has been quashed, he will want to give some land for cheap starter homes. His son Simon will resist this.



Shula Hebden
Tragic widowed mother

Has a grisly IVF history, now courting Simon. Great social conscience, will be pleased with most of the White Paper and will spend hours poring over the countryside stewardship scheme.



Kathy Perks
Repentant adulteress

She and Sid run The Bull, and will probably be driven to drink themselves by weeks of listening to customers tediously reading out stuff about the White Paper from their scripts.

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6,000 pints of cider, please

By tomorrow I shall have biceps, buttocks and thighs of steel. Never mind that they still feel like jelly today, it always happens about this time every year. You see, being the daughter of amateur cider makers with 800 trees on their hands, I have dutifully spent the weekend lending arms and elbow juice to the annual task of picking apples, pressing, bottling and pasteurising — and in between swallowing the remains of last year's bounty.

To some, last Saturday was National Apple Day, a time to ponder the glories of the British apple, perhaps to wander around an orchard enjoying the dappled sunshine and plucking the odd beauty. Fat chance of any of that for us. You see, the hot summer has produced a desperately bumper crop. Last year we got three tons of organic apples; this year we have trees positively pregnant with 15 tons.

If a little placid plucking from trees were all there was to it, I might be feeling rather less tired and emotional about the whole enterprise. But every aspect of cider making has its own amusing little challenges. For a start, there is pain. Oh, how I hate, loathe and abhor this evil little bacterial nasty which infects every apple as soon as it hits the ground, or so the health inspector tells us. With Saturdays — inconvenient, gusty winds combined with gravity, we scramble around under the low branches spreading plastic sheets, shaking trunks, catching the fat ones square on our heads and picking up the rest.

Next is pressing. Unaccustomed to being trussed up in rubber trousers, boots, aprons and gloves (industrial strength), I find I can barely move. We load the press and stand poised for action looking

The appeal of apples palls after picking, pressing and pasteurising



JOANNA PITMAN

like half-witted cleaners from a toxic chemical lab. Nothing happens. Off with the rubbers, up the ladder, fiddle with the churning bit and then suddenly the touchy monster leaps into action, chomping apples. Off we go, and we're all just about keeping up with the Olympian chomping when suddenly the chief lets out a desperate yelp.

"Can anyone remember where I put the anti-oxidant last year?" Panic sets in. This magic powder, you see, stops

the juice turning a nasty shade of brown, which is crucial if any of the 6,000-odd bottles we are producing are to be sold. Juice is pouring forth in a menacing shade of brown. Just this side of a coronary, the powder is discovered and decent colour restored.

Meanwhile, the chomping machine is going like the clappers and the team is working marvels until... New disaster: the tank is full and all our glorious juice is pouring out all over the floor.

Chaos erupts. I scoop a jug full and then manage to redistribute the lot all over chief, brother and self. Finally, panic is averted with the deployment of a new tank. We finish for the day, having pressed and saved 700 litres of unspeakably delicious apple juice. We retire to drink a lot of last year's cider.

Next morning we stretch our addled brains around high-speed bottling (three every six seconds) then pasteurising at a precision 74.3C. The season has barely begun and there's another 14 tons of apples to deal with. Oh, it's great fun, but it's very odd though: the other thing that always happens to me at this time of year is that I suddenly find I have rather a lot of travelling to do at weekends.

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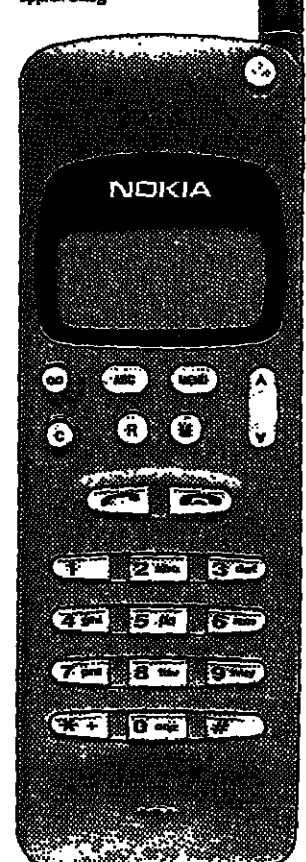
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Alan Coren



The man across the road isn't exactly my neighbour — so who am I to take sides?

I am given to understand that you have had it up to here with all things Bosnian. Stuffed to the gills by a quarrel in a faraway country between people of whom you now know so much that you cannot begin to make any sense of it, you are finally losing patience. You just want the whole pack of them to stop being so bloody Balkan. If only they would learn to shape up and behave like Britons, you mutter, it would all be over by Christmas.

Fine. That's enough about the former Yugoslavia. Let's move on.

Normally, at this time of year, the autumn leaves drift by my window, the autumn leaves of red and gold. And pretty energetically they drift, too, since I live at the bottom of a blustery hill, and by the time the leaves which have fallen off at the top of the hill have reached my window, they are going at a fair old lick. They then pile themselves into big wet hummocks, which has always been the signal for the London Borough of Barnet to dispatch sturdy men with handcuffs to shovel them up. Until this year, this year has brought a change of policy — do not ask why, changing policies is what councils do, it is where the fun is. This year, the bottom of the road came home last Friday to find that someone had been round and put all the leaves into big green bin-liners which had then been propped beneath the trees, in little groups of three or four, leaning together in an anthropomorphic manner pleasingly redolent of T.S. Eliot's Hollow Men, to await, the bottom of the road assumed, collection.

The top of the road did not know about any of this. Not immediately.

Now, this new policy pleased the bottom of the road no end, for ours is a horticulturally correct community, zealous in its organic composting, but whereas our cherished leaf-mould had hitherto been backbreakingly gleamed in drabs and drabs from our own premises, suddenly it had been delivered to us, ready wrapped, in huge portable quantities. Delivered unto us, you might be tempted to say, for what was this but geonomic manna? We were looking at the mulch of the gods.

There were two sacks beside my front gate. I took the first down to the end of the back garden, and was returning for the second when my stride was broken by the unsuburban noise of angry voices barking in the street. I moved cautiously to my front hedge, and saw that my neighbour opposite had firm hold of one side of a bin-liner while someone else had equally firm hold of the other. I recognised the someone else. He was from the top of the road.

He was, that is, from the London Borough of Camden, which lies east of the road's bisecting border. And he had come for his leaves. He knew they were his leaves, because he had opened the bag and found horse-chestnut remains, and there are no horse-chestnuts west of the border. They had blown into Barnet, a point he was at pains to yell. My neighbour opposite, however, now yelled that that was neither here nor there, since what had once been there was now here due to having been bagged up by Barnet workers paid out of council tax levied on the bottom of the road, i.e. him. He had bought these Camden leaves fair and square.

A wife from the top of the road now appeared at a gallop, and put in an interesting twopennyworth to the effect that she and her husband had been here since the days when the whole road was Cricklewood, before the Barnet-Camden border had been arbitrarily imposed, and so had the bloody conker tree. This, even a bottom-of-the-roader had to concede, was a nice point: it went to (as juridical jargon has it) the relative status of the two regions following the break-up of the former Cricklewood, and it was as moot as you could get.

It was at this fraught juncture that my neighbour opposite spotted my head in the hedge, and beckoned, in a parent plea for ethnic solidarity. I did what any honourable man would have done. I mimed a ringing phone and ran indoors. Why get embroiled? I am, after all, from the other side of the bottom of the road. A different region altogether. When I looked out of the window later, the bag had gone. I still do not know where, nor shall I inquire. I am sure it'll all be over by Christmas.

Bruce Anderson says prisons have much to learn from the best of government agencies, the Armed Forces

Prisons need officers, not just managers

It is hardly surprising that Derek Lewis is upset at his dismissal, or that he should wish to redirect the blame from himself to the Home Office ministers. He is right: the blame does lie with a minister, though not with Michael Howard. The guilty man is the previous Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, who appointed the wrong man, with the wrong remit.

Every age has its prevailing fallacies, and most of them from a similar origin: the insensitive overuse of an apparently commonsense nostrum. Almost everyone would agree that the Britain of the 1970s was a woefully ill-managed country and that this was especially true of the public sector. None of the successes of the 1980s would have been possible without a dramatic improvement in the quality of management. But this does not mean that management is the solution to every problem.

Derek Lewis was appointed to manage the Prison Service, and has had some success in doing so. But although that service did — and still does — need vastly better management, another task ought to have taken priority. It was one for which nothing in Mr Lewis's background and little in his personality had equipped him: leadership.

During one of the prison officers' disputes of the 1980s, a soldier friend of mine found himself in charge of a prison's perimeter security. The first thing that he and his men noticed was the powerful odour of marijuana waft-

ing towards them from the cell blocks. So he tackled the governor, who was evasive. My friend then announced that he proposed to have all visitors searched for drugs. The governor was horrified, but my friend insisted. The staff must be coming from outside he presumed that the inmates were prevented from growing it in their cells. With an ill grace the governor gave way. The soldier concluded that he had no objection to his prisoners being stored for much of the time. It made them more tractable and gave him an easier life.

That is an extreme case, but most of the soldiers I have talked to who found themselves taking command of civilian prisons were appalled by the poor quality of leadership and the widespread acceptance of low standards.

Much recent comment on the Prison Service has focused on the difficulties of running it as an agency, and some critics have claimed that this new hybrid concept — an arm of government run independently from government — could

never work. They are wrong. One such agency has been in existence for several centuries, and not only does it have a most distinguished record, but it is at least as successful today as any other British institution, and at least as well managed. The history of the Armed Forces proves that agency status can work, under the right leadership.

If General Sir John Latham had run into difficulties during his time as a corps commander, he would not have dreamt of pushing the responsibility up the line to the Chief of the General Staff, let alone to the Secretary of State for Defence. Any general who had been foolish enough to adopt that policy would have been guaranteed a most unsympathetic hearing from his own military peers. The services are run on a simple dual basis: the integrity of command within political guidelines. Although tensions arise, they are generally easy to resolve. The Armed Forces should be the model for all other agencies.

In the case of the Prison Service, they should also be the recruiting office. Over the decades, many of the best governors and prison officers have had Service backgrounds: this is still true today of men like Graham Clark of Wandsworth prison. But there ought to be many more of them.

As a result of the "Options for Change" Armed Forces review, several thousand officers' and warrant officers' military careers came to a premature end. Though the British economy will undoubtedly benefit from the injection of such able and well trained characters, many branches of the public service — and prisons above all — are ideally suited to their leadership skills.

Prisoners need to be disciplined: no more drugs, no more easy escapes. When I visited the military prison at Colchester, one unfortunate inmate was about to face the wrath of God for a drug offence. He had been caught with

a prohibited substance about his person: a cigarette end concealed in his sock. The authorities were taking that tiny piece of tobacco at least as seriously as the average prison governor would view several ounces of cocaine. We need that Colchester spirit in all of our prisons.

An undisciplined prison is a hopeless place, but good governors and prison officers can build on discipline to encourage motivation and self-respect. That is how the Services train their recruits; that is how servicemen turned governors and prison officers would deal with their charges.

So Michael Howard ought to have a word with Peter Inge, the Chief of the Defence Staff, and ask him to recommend an outstanding three or four-star officer to succeed Mr Lewis. Michael Wilkes or John Wilsey would be obvious choices, though the field need not be restricted to the Army.

On appointment, the new Director-General ought to have a simple message for his 30,000 staff. "In my last job, the word 'officer' had a clear meaning," he should say. "It meant a highly trained, dedicated, committed individual who had been deemed worthy of holding the Queen's commission. That's what 'officer' meant to me; that's what it will always mean to me. If you need backing and help to reach those targets, that is what I am here for. But if you feel that you cannot reach them, you must find another career."

Clear up this mess of porridge

If the Government wants to take charge, it must also take responsibility

Who said capital punishment was dead? The hanging was one of Tombstone's finest. In years to come, old men will spit on the verandah and gaze down main street to the sight of the gallows. "That Michael Howard," they will recall, "he tied a mean bowline. The guy was dead in seconds."

The trial of Derek Lewis, on a charge of abetting the humiliation of a Home Secretary, took place at 11am last Sunday in a room in the Home Office. All was done by the book. Present were the victim, the judge, a prosecutor, a defence lawyer and a jury of good men and true. It being a Sunday, however, and the Home Secretary wanting to save money, he generously performed all these duties himself. The trial opened with the sentence: death. There followed a conversation in which Mr Lewis pointed out he had been acquitted of the charge by the same Mr Howard in April. Mr Howard simply handed him a revolver and said he wanted him dead by 5 o'clock. Mr Lewis refused. Okay, said Mr Howard, by dawn.

Mr Lewis still refused. In that case, said Mr Howard, with "great sadness", you hang. On went the noose, whoosh went the trap, snap went Mr Lewis's neck.

So much constitutional innovation takes some getting used to. When an intruder was found in the Queen's bedroom in 1982, the then Home Secretary William Whitelaw tendered his resignation. Whoever might be operationally to blame, democratic accountability required that a political head be on the block.

The resignation might be and was refused. But constitutional form was observed.

Today when two murderers and an arsonist make a mockery of the prison service by escaping from Parkhurst, something different happens. First, the governor is sacked; then the Inspector of Prisons, Judge Tumin, is not offered a further contract, then the head of the Prison Service is fired.

Whatever Mr Howard feels about punishing criminals, he clearly favours retribution and deterrents for prison management. I worry for the fate of Sir John Latham, whose report formed the prosecution case against Mr Lewis.

The Home Office at present is a place of fearful shadows and dark corners, not all of them empty. There is a bullet in

every postbag and a strychnine sachet on every tea-trolley.

So what has changed since Lord Whitelaw's days? The Latham report is a devastating comment on British public administration. Anybody who believes we have a Rolls Royce civil service should read it word for word. It is a record not of corruption or venality but of mind-numbing bureaucratic incompetence.

It is as bad as Devin on Holo or Franks on the Falklands. It puts the Home Office on a par with Indian railways and Italian tax inspectors.

The Home Office prisons branch, renamed the Prison Service but still liable to Treasury and Home Office interference, is portrayed as a hickspittle to its ministers. Hours are taken up with holding ministers' hands, preparing photo-opportunities, finding facts and figures to present politicians in a good light. A thousand documents were exchanged with the Home Office in the four months of the Latham inquiry.

When the team interviewed Mr Lewis, he was constantly interrupted by calls from the Home Office.

Simon Jenkins



Latham explained, he is grown up and well paid and should go. But the report is also a comment on the culture of organisation of which the Home Office and Mr Howard are ardent apostles.

Here the accountability question remains open. Listeners to the speeches of Mr Howard and John Major at Blackpool will recall a flood of initiatives from the Home Office. Among them was a plan for a national detective agency for organised crime, a plan to involve 150,000 more police work and another to put 5,000 extra policemen on the beat.

All these proposals would have been unthinkable 16 years ago, for the simple reason that policing was a local responsibility. Since then, the Government has effectively nationalised local police committees, cash-limiting them, further regulating the chief constables, and dictating police numbers, pay and conditions of service.

There was widespread agreement in the 1970s that Britain's local constabularies were inefficient and costly. There was no agreement that nationalisation was the answer.

The Prison Service, which was already nationalised, was a disgrace. The Metropolitan Police, which the Home Office also ran, was the least efficient force in the country. Yet under the 1994 Police Act, first Kenneth Clarke and then

Mr Howard thought they could buck the trend and prove that Whitehall knew best. A formal takeover of all local police committees was balked only by a revolt of former Home Secretaries in the House of Lords.

Anyone who thinks that such direct rule is the ideal way to handle law and order in Britain should read Latham. The steady centralisation of police and prisons has brought no reduction in crime, a rising prison population, soaring cost and declining public confidence.

Ever since the May report of 1979, the Home Office has been attacked for bureaucracy. It has turned a deaf ear. Today it employs 51,500 staff, compared to 44,000 just five years ago. Whatever may have been wrong with British policing in 1979, the public has come to regard those days as a Golden Age.

We desperately need a new model for police and prison accountability, beyond the tenuous thread linking these services to the Home Secretary and Parliament. It is absurd for the Tory MP Sir Ivan Lawrence to say, as he did yesterday, that the Home Secretary's responsibility is limited to sacking the head of the Prison Service. If that is so, why did the Home Secretary answer 600 parliamentary questions last

year, rather than delegate that task direct to Mr Lewis, or let Mr Lewis answer to Parliament through a select committee?

As Mr Lewis indicates in his resignation letter, the truth is that he was expected to be a cheerleader for Mr Lewis. Future applicants for the post be warned.

The Prime Minister and Home Secretary now dictate how many policemen can be deployed on the streets of Britain. They have nationalised Special Branch under M15 and nationalised performance objectives under the Audit Commission.

Mr Howard now plans the creeping nationalisation of CID work under his central detective agency. But if Mr Howard and Mr Major want to hear the cheers of party conferences in their ears, they must show that they mean to take the blame when things go wrong. The buck clearly stops with them.

If the man in Whitehall thinks he knows best and is found out, he can now expect to be sacked. This is progress. But what of the man who thought the man in Whitehall knew best?

Simon Jenkins's Accountable to None: The Tory Nationalisation of Britain will be published by Hamish Hamilton next week.

Baring up

NICK LEESON is to produce a book, the BBC is making a film and now there are plans for "Barings, the Musical". An opera company based in the City of London has commissioned a piece about the collapse of the family bank.

The Spitalfields Opera is circulating material about the world premiere of its work. "This will be a virtuosic piece, revealing the vulnerabilities of a lone character, in the tradition of *Otello* and *Billy Budd*," it reads.

The production needs funding.



Julia Carling: does she by any chance sing?

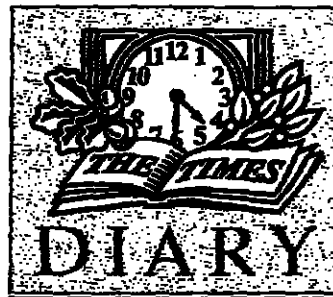
and the opera company is seeking sponsors. Barings Bank, which was severely criticised yesterday in a report on the collapse by Singapore authorities, was the first to be approached. "The first time they heard about it they laughed, but we are serious," said the opera company's Philip Parr. "I think it would be therapeutic for the bank."

A City Opera is to be written by the composer Geoff Westley, who specialises in electronic music, and the librettist Paul Griffiths. For the part of Lisa Leeson — Nick's wife, who works in a tea-shop — an approach to Julia Carling is likely (her career is on the up).

Ball brawl

A SOCIETY BALL, in a Yorkshire castle descended into chaos on Saturday night when a cat-fight broke out between two ladies in sequins. The dancefloor at the black-tie affair in aid of the NSPCC at Ripley Castle, near Harrogate, erupted, reports Sir Thomas Ingilby, who hosted the event.

"It seems it was a feud based on some love problem in the past in-



volving two couples. The women started it, but then there was an outbreak of punching on the dancefloor between the men," says the baronet. Police and medics were called. "It was just like a bar-room brawl. The culprits were interviewed, but they had consumed too much to make any sense," says Ingilby. "I would have liked to throw them in the dungeons."

While Baroness Thatcher was cutting her 70th birthday cake with the Queen at Claridge's on Monday night, the American playwright Arthur Miller was celebrating his 80th in another part of town. "It just shows you that astrology doesn't work," he said. "Lady Thatcher and I seem to have been born under the same star sign, but two people couldn't be more different. I like her more now that she

isn't Prime Minister. This way she hasn't got so much power."

Prison

DEREK LEWIS has hired a public relations company to help him hit back at the man who sacked him, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard. Millbank Public Relations has so far helped to get him onto *The World Tonight*, *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *GMTV*.

Adrian King of Millbank is defensive: "This is not a Max Clifford exercise. He needs someone to help him make a point. And at a certain time yesterday, he ceased to have the resources that the Prison Service offered."

Big Spender

THE LITERARY establishment is divided over the merits of a fragile pamphlet to be auctioned at Christie's in New York this month. It is Stephen Spender's first book of poems, hand-printed by Spender himself when he was 18, and inscribed to his chum Cyril Connolly. Though the poems are of dubious merit — Spender later tried to destroy the book — *Nine Experiments* is estimated at up to \$35,000 because of its rarity. Spender used



Spender, rarely

a hand-press designed for printing chemists' labels. The press, on which he also famously printed W.H. Auden's first book, later collapsed on him.

"It was pretty terrible," remembers Lady Spender. "He got the

idea of printing for himself from his friend Virginia Woolf, with her Hogarth Press, but he was only an undergraduate. It must have been a great labour."

The pair of matching gold rings with which Nelson and his mistress Lady Hamilton pledged their love are to be reunited today for the first time since they parted, company before Trafalgar. They have been brought together from separate collections, and will be on display alongside the great man's pigtail at the Nelson exhibition opening at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

Voice-over

THE VOICE of Gladstone has been resounding once more around the London home he inhabited during the first of his four premieres. On Monday night, at the party to launch his biography of the 19th-century statesman, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, astonished guests with a recording of Gladstone speaking in 1888, which he had unearthed from a BBC archive.

One of the earliest phonograph recordings in existence, it reveals that the man who made so many long public speeches to huge audi-



"We might be released early for bad behaviour"

ences had quite a gentle, musical voice with a slight northern accent. "His voice hasn't been heard in this room since 1875 when he left the house," Jenkins told the throng.

Sean Connery is heading home. The former James Bond star, who became a tax exile in 1974 and has lived in Marbella for years, has been spotted sniffing around a £215,000 house in his native Scotland, close to St Andrews and its golf courses.

P.H.S

هناك من الامم



AMERICAN COMEBACK

Washington witnesses political success as well as black anger

The vast display of black male solidarity at Louis Farrakhan's March on Washington this week may at first sight look like another symptom of America's social disintegration. The Million Man march has provided the usual encouragement to Europeans accustomed to bemoaning America's loss of political direction, its moral confusion and its abandonment of world leadership since the end of the Reagan era. Europe should take care: its pundits risk failing to notice the stirrings of both political and economic revival across the Atlantic.

Mr Farrakhan preaches a divisive message of black separatism and black self-reliance. This is one of the less attractive signs of the new self-confidence among many Americans, including some of the underprivileged. Although it should not be ignored, nor should it blind commentators to the far more important change of mood among the greater mass of American politicians, businessmen and voters who are increasingly hopeful that the greatest public policy challenges of the 1990s may not prove as insurmountable as had been feared.

Specifically, three of the thorny problems left over from the 1970s and 1980s now seem far less intractable than they did even a few months ago. The first of these problems has been the debilitating combination of political instability and legislative paralysis, epitomised by the fact that Ronald Reagan has been the only American President since the 1950s to serve two full terms. The second trouble, partly a symptom of the first, has been the unprecedented expansion of the federal budget deficit and the explosive growth of public spending, especially on social programmes and medical care.

Both the political stalemate and the impasse over the budget now seem to be nearer resolution than they have been for over a decade. Although there are likely to be last-minute setbacks and ritual confrontations, both the White House and the congressional leadership seem determined to reach an agreement on a budget making deep inroads into previously untouchable

social programmes and giving the American Government one of the world's strongest fiscal positions.

Largely as a result of this consensus on the budget, both President Clinton and the Republican congressional leadership are earning newfound public respect. Bill Clinton, for all his personal failings, may stand a good chance of re-election. Americans seem to want conservative Republican legislation, but they seem to prefer to have it implemented under the moderating influence of a Democrat in the White House. Newt Gingrich and Mr Clinton are turning into a symbiotic pair.

America's third, and most fundamental, problem has been its loss of world economic leadership and its inability to sustain strong non-inflationary growth since the late 1960s. This economic failure has been both cause and consequence of the political and budgetary gridlock in Washington. Today, however, there are growing signs of America regaining hegemony in terms of technology, management methods and economic growth.

America's re-emergence as the world's most successful and competitive economy can be attributed to many factors. The Federal Reserve Board has pursued far more pragmatic and sensible policies than the Bank of Japan, the Bundesbank or any of the other European authorities, and now deservedly enjoys far greater confidence than any other central bank in the financial markets. The competitive dollar has boosted American business and will gradually help to close the country's trade deficit.

But above all, the credit for America's economic revival must go to the dynamism and flexibility of business and labour. In an era of rapid global change, America's individualistic enterprise system is proving its superiority over the government-regulated rigidity of Europe and Japan. Americans are still the world's most inventive, ambitious and self-reliant creators of wealth. That is a lesson that even Mr Farrakhan seems to have understood.

COUNTRY CAUTION

Gummer promises much: can he deliver?

John Gummer's White Paper on rural England resembles the English countryside seen from the air: a patchwork quilt of policies sewn together into a 'broadly coherent whole'. It is the diversity of this country's rural life and landscape that makes it so attractive: a diverse collection of solutions is needed to address the problems that country-dwellers face. Thus the White Paper is sponsored by two departments — Environment and Agriculture — but will require the co-operation of many more. And, as the document concludes, Government cannot deliver on its own: every individual can and should play a part in ensuring that the countryside is preserved and improved for future generations.

Most people are aware of the particular difficulties that rural populations face: the demise of the village shop, the lack of affordable housing, the scarcity of public transport, and the reduction in agricultural jobs. Visitors to the countryside bemoan insensitive development (especially of new houses that have no distinctive local characteristics), the destruction of hedgerows and the decline in traditional species, from the skylark to the cowslip.

Unemployment, however, is much lower in rural areas and there have been far more business start-ups in the countryside than in cities. Even manufacturing has thrived, with an increase of 19.7 per cent in manufacturing jobs in rural areas between 1960 and 1987, compared with a nationwide fall of 37.5 per cent. Unlike France, which has seen a depopulation of the countryside as agricultural jobs have disappeared, Britain has had a net influx of people away from towns and cities. The national dream of moving to

the country has now become a realistic aspiration for more than merely the richest.

This increase in population, though, has driven house prices up beyond the reach of many locals. It has changed the character of many villages, increasing the average age of the residents. Those who arrive before retirement age often commute to work in towns, thereby adding to local traffic congestion, and cannot resist the temptation to shop there too.

The rise of the out-of-town supermarket has done more than anything to destroy village shops. Too late the Environment Secretary, Mr Gummer, has curbed their growth. Simple market forces cannot protect the little shops on which many carless residents are compelled to rely. The White Paper's recognition that such shops have a "special social function" is no less welcome for its tardiness. The new relief to be offered them should at least ensure that more can survive.

Most of the paper's recommendations are worthy and sensible, though many are too vague to evaluate. Treasury expenditure-watchers have been hard at work. Whitehall-watchers will enjoy the irony that the poacher who launched this idea with great fanfare last year as Agriculture Minister is now Chief Secretary to the Treasury and seems to have learnt his gamekeeping skills fast. William Waldegrave has allowed hardly any money to be promised; instead the report is peppered with good intentions. Turning them into action will be another matter. Within the vertical structures of government, co-operation between departments is one of the hardest challenges that any minister can face.

SUPERMAN AGAIN

Salute to a different example to us all

Laughter has the power to restore life, as Christopher Reeve recalled yesterday. Making his first public appearance since a fall from a horse left him paralysed from the neck down, the American actor described how his will to live was rekindled by the clowning of his old friend Robin Williams. His fellow actor visited Mr Reeve in hospital, leaping about the room in a blue surgeon's hat and yellow gown and speaking with a thick Russian accent. "I laughed for the first time since my accident. I knew life was going to be okay."

Those were brave words, bravely spoken at an awards ceremony for Mr Williams, where Mr Reeve made his first public appearance since his accident in May. The truth, as he and everyone knows, is that life is never again going to be okay for Mr Reeve. Few who saw him on television, immobile in a wheelchair, can have failed to feel the anguish of his position. The cruelty of his spinal injury destroyed, at a stroke, his youth, his career and his mobility. But it has not destroyed his spirit. There have been black moments. But he has found the strength to fight them.

Terrifying accidents happen every day. Neither wealth, fame nor virtue can protect a human being from random, malign chance. The medieval world understood this, and made it part of its religious outlook.

Today, however, catastrophes are thought avoidable, and when they occur they are often hidden behind the walls of hospitals and rehabilitation centres. The importance of Mr Reeve's public appearance is that he is a public figure — a screen idol to many — and as such his resolution set a valuable example to others in equal discomfort.

Inevitably the greatest challenge for the actor and anyone imagining such a sudden loss is to focus their attention beyond their own situation. This is why self-pity has so often been the enemy of healing. Those victims of terrible diseases who excite the greatest admiration and love are those who look around at others in similar trouble and use their remaining energy to comfort them or press their case. Aids sufferers who suddenly discover a new humanity in themselves are those who move us most and impel us to give money for the fight against the disease.

Christopher Reeve has indicated that he, too, may now involve himself in campaigns for other quadriplegics. Stephen Hawking, another brave victim of disease, is happily able to pursue a cerebral career, and has demonstrated how disability can be set aside. Superman will never resume his old role; but in facing, in front of a million screens, the greatest challenge imaginable he is indeed giving truth to his film title.

Call for greater safety in boxing

From Mr Tony Van den Bergh

Sir, Your leader, "Death in the ring" (October 16), makes several valid points as to how boxing could be made safer.

Certainly the doctors at the ringside should be able to halt a contest rather than leaving it to the referee, who usually has had no medical training.

However, your emphasis is upon deaths in the ring rather than on the long-term effects of blows to the head, which, for a large percentage of boxers, result in irreversible brain damage, even though the symptoms may not present for 20 or 30 years after the fight has begun.

Your proposal to reduce the number of rounds is a move in the right direction — whilst realising, of course, that boxers adjust the speed at which a contest is fought to the number of rounds facing them. (An amateur boxer may, after only three rounds, be as exhausted as a pro doing ten rounds.)

Larger gloves and headguards would, as you suggest, only add to the danger of brain damage as the target would be increased and the twisting of the head as a hook or a swing lands would be greater.

The comparison with other sports does not bear close examination. In rugby, for instance, thousands upon thousands play every week for seven months of the year. In boxing there are fewer than 1,200 licensed boxers fighting on average 34 times a year. Yet the total number of fatalities is used to give the impression that boxing is the safer sport.

Amongst the suggestions for reform, I find no mention of greater medical supervision in gymsnasiums, where sparring partners can take more punishment than in actual ring contests. Often there are no representatives of the British Boxing Board of Control present during sparring, and the fact that the sparring partners will be expected to be hurt is illustrated by the high wages offered as a championship contest approaches.

The pro-boxing lobby always stresses that it is the right of the would-be boxer to make his own decision and that he will have been warned by the board of the dangers. How can anyone warn a 17 or 18-year-old who has been promised millions by the age of 25 that he may well end a "cabbage" in his fifties or sixties? At that age 35 is looked on as being "over the hill".

One way of preventing brain damage would be to bring back bare-knuckle fighting. A hard blow to the head would almost invariably result in broken fingers. This would switch the target from the head to the body.

That in turn would drive the spectators away for boxing is unique in two ways: first, it is the only so-called sport in which the effective aim of the sportsman is to render his opponent brain-damaged and, secondly, the only sport in which 99.9 per cent of the followers would never dare climb through the ropes themselves.

Yours faithfully,
TONY VAN DEN BERGH
(Former broadcaster and inspector,
British Boxing Board of Control),
5 Antrim Grove, NW3,
October 16.

From Mrs Kim Lasky

Sir, It seems strange to me that boxers are not allowed to hit below the belt, but can fatally pound their opponent's head.

Yours,
KIM LASKY,
Glan y Mor,
Seaview Avenue, West Mersea, Essex.
October 16.

Skills of rhetoric

From the Headmaster of the Diele Grammar School

Sir, Simon Jenkins asks who is taught "the simplest skills of rhetoric" in our schools and universities today ("The power of the vernacular", October 14). Certainly those who attend schools that take part in the excellent English-Speaking Union/Observer Mace public-speaking and debating competitions have a great deal of time and effort devoted to teaching them just that.

I suspect, too, that a visit to most inter-varsity debating competitions would reveal an impressive level of rhetorical agility and quick thinking. Rhetoric is not as close to death as Simon Jenkins contends.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILLMOTT,
Headmaster,
The Diele Grammar School,
Market Bosworth,
Leicestershire,
October 14.

Science marking

From Sir Arnold Wolfendale, FRS, President of the Institute of Physics

Sir, Your report (News in Brief, early editions, October 12) of the "crisis of science" in British education identified by five head teachers' organisation brings into sharp focus the worrying lack of progress in our efforts to increase the take-up of science post-16 in schools and colleges.

The head teachers are reported as favouring science A levels being marked less strictly. It is, of course, crucial that there should be a level playing field for the various subjects in A-level examinations; but rather than less strict marking of the sciences

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Waffle and fudge of Eurospeak'

From Mr Derek Prag

Sir, Michael Portillo claims that his speech to the Conservative Party conference last week stripped away "all the waffle and fudge of Eurospeak" (report, October 16). That was exactly what he did not do.

The Commission, at which he claimed to have been "poking fun", has never asked for a European army. It is not its business to do so. Jacques Santer has said repeatedly that the Commission has enough on its plate as things are, and does not want to be given responsibility for any new policy areas. His predecessor, Jacques Delors, was of the same opinion. Mr Portillo was tilting at windmills.

Unfortunately, he was also doing something much more serious: he was contributing to the entirely false picture given by the Euro-sceptics of what the European Union and its institutions really can do. Such exaggerations make it difficult for members of the public to form opinions about what our European policies should be.

It is crucial for Britain's future that the public should be given the facts about the European Union.

They should know, for instance, that there can be no question of the Council of Ministers, let alone the Commission, taking decisions against our wishes about sending British forces into action. For such decisions, our full agreement is needed. At the same time, every British should know that we are dependent on joint arrangements with our partners and allies for our defence. It is just plain silly to call them names.

Yours sincerely,
DEREK PRAG
(Conservative MEP for
Hertfordshire, 1979-94),
Pine Hill, 47 New Road,
Digswell, Welwyn, Hertfordshire.
October 16.

From Mr Leslie G. Leek

Sir, How refreshing for a Minister of the Crown to speak the truth in words which the ordinary man in the street can understand, and in general endorse.

Michael Portillo was absolutely right to deliver his speech in such terms, "stripping away all the waffle and fudge of Eurospeak". He is also correct that the public hates humbug and fudge.

Mr Portillo's speech at the party conference has brought Europe once more to the top of the political agenda. In doing so it has reflected the grave fears of many in this country that there are those who wish to see us continuing down the Hitler-skeeter to European federalism.

Co-operation and free trade, yes. Federalism, no.
Well done Mr Portillo.

Yours etc,
LESLIE G. LEAK,
The Granary,
Aldridge, West Midlands.
October 16.

Football on TV

From Mr Iain Murdoch

Sir, When will those who supposedly police our television (letters, October 17) ever bother to ask us, the viewers, what we would like to see on our screens? I specifically refer to television's love affair with football.

The first of a new episode of *Cracker* has been postponed because of the Independent Television Commission's "strong objections" to the delay of *News at Ten* by 15 minutes (report, October 12). Are the 15 million-plus viewers of this excellent drama series really bothered? I doubt it.

Yet on Wednesday October 18 I see that *News at Ten* has been delayed by at least 25 minutes in order that yet another football match can be shown (between Scottish and Italian club teams).

Although football is our national sport, why are we subjected to so much of it on our screens? Between Sunday and Wednesday this week, in some regions, more than 11 hours will be broadcast.

Instead of allowing the new Channel Five further to dilute the quality of television screened in this country, why not make it exclusive to sport in the evening and education in the daytime? The addicts could have their regular fix whenever they want without our forcing their habit on those who require more intellectually stimulating and challenging television.

Yours faithfully,
IAIN MURDOCH,
Westways, 102 Vandyke Road,
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.
October 17.

From Dr Nick Davey

Sir, It surprises me to read that head teachers of state and independent schools take the view that marking A-level science papers less strictly will help combat a growing ignorance of science. This initiative will result in A-level students thinking that they know more science while, in fact, they may know even less than at present.

Such complacency will surely result in a scientific reputation of mediocrity rather than excellence for Britain.

Yours faithfully,
NICK DAVEY,
Charing Cross & Westminster Medical School,
Department of Physiology,
Fulham Palace Road, London W6,
October 12.

From Mr T. D. F. Fairbrother

Sir, The farcical, unworkable and morale-sapping idea of a single European army has been around for a long time, and it needs knocking on the head from time to time, especially now that continental politicians, unable to solve their domestic problems, are reviving it. But given that some highly placed people condemn any direct criticism of our European "partners" as xenophobic, would it not have been more politic for Mr Portillo to have chosen different words?

For instance, in 1952 Winston Churchill said that a single European army would be a "sludgy amalgam". One day, I hope, Mr Portillo will be more statesmanlike.

Yours faithfully,
TOM FAIRBROTHER,
Oriel College, Oxford.
October 13.

From Mr Robin Teverson, MEP for Cornwall and West Plymouth (Liberal and Democratic Reformist (Liberal Democrat))

Sir, Dr A. D. Farr (letter, October 14) asks why Britain's "leading political parties" will not allow a referendum on further European political integration. Good question, but slightly inaccurate. Liberal Democrats — unique amongst the three main parties — have long promised a referendum if next year's inter-governmental conference produces proposals for serious constitutional change.

From whatever side of the European debate — "phobes or philes" — it is clear that moves towards further integration must be based on popular consent. Progress by stealth or subterfuge will not do.

I believe the pro-European side could win the argument, and the referendum. Dr Farr may disagree, but it would settle the matter either way. Now he should refine his question and ask why the other parties are so unwilling to let the people have their say.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN TEVERSON,
Newton Farm,
Metherell,
Callington, Cornwall.
October 16.

From Mrs Fiona Mason

Sir, The Prime Minister was not of course demonstrating support for Michael Portillo's speech on October 10 when he applauded and shook him by the hand.

No. He was seized by a frisson of delight — the more pleasurable for being unexpected — at the sound and sight of a senior colleague and rival, in a matter of minutes, consigning himself to the bottom right-hand corner of politics.

Yours faithfully,
FIONA MASON,
8 Chesterfield Road,
Chiswick, W4,
October 13.

Dealing in antiquities

From the Director of the Council for British Archaeology

Sir, Mr George Lambor (letter, October 13) responds to Lord Rendrew's serious concerns about the antiquities trade by asserting that it is the archaeologists — and in particular the Council for British Archaeology — who "will put every obstacle in the way of implementing any sensible and practical code of conduct" for dealing in antiquities.

It is difficult to see how the archaeological community could — or would wish to — hinder progressive developments in a trade for which it has no responsibility.

Last year, according to a contribution to the June 1994 issue of Mr Lambor's own magazine, the annual turnover of Britain's antiquities trade was around £1 billion. If the trade wished to establish a record scheme about the objects in which it deals, it could of course do so.

Mr Lambor's own efforts to launch such a scheme, and to involve archaeological and museum bodies in its devising and operation, have been well intended.

The irrational accusations in his letter may nevertheless help to indicate why dialogue about his proposals has been less productive than one would have wished.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MORRIS,
Director,
Council for British Archaeology,
Bowes Morrell House,
111 Walmgate, York.
October 16.

Fair play on child benefits

From Baroness Jeger

Sir, I cannot agree with Mrs Gair's suggestion (letter, October 10) that we should consider going back to pre-1975 child tax allowances. These reliefs went right up the scale to the richest in the land. The Inland Revenue did not have to ensure that they went only where they were needed.

But they could not go to those who most needed help — the sub-taxpayers, who are the poorest families. It is only they, under your correspondent's proposal, who would have to hawk their poverty, family by family, around the social security offices at prodigious administrative costs and low take-up.

We have been here before. Prior to the 1975 Child Benefit Act, agreed by all parties in both Houses, the income tax allowances for children were £305 for each child over 16 in full-time education; £275 for children 11-16; £240 for those under 11. Families so poor as to be non-taxpayers received, under the 1945 Family Allowances Act, nothing for the first child and five shillings (25p) a week for subsequent children.

Parliament recognised the inequity of these arrangements, abolished both systems and introduced universal child benefit without means-testing or taxation. If we revert to tax allowances it would be only fair to grant non-taxpayers the same amounts as the taxpayers.

This would be immensely expensive or socially divisive. There is here no way towards One Nation, which came a step nearer in 1975.

Yours sincerely,
LENA M. JEGGER,
House of Lords,
October 10.

Off the hook

From Mr Christopher Shale

Sir, I fully sympathise with Mr Neil Riley's need for ideas on how he and his wife should celebrate paying off their 25-year mortgage. But haven't you been a little unfair in publishing his letter on Friday, October 13? Is this not tempting fate?

Meanwhile, the Rileys might spare a thought for the man who, when contemplating the 25 years of mortgage payments ahead, changed the name of his home to Cobb House. Completely Owned by Barclays Bank.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SHALE,
The Garden Cottage,
Cornbury Park,
Charlbury, Oxfordshire.
October 13.

From Mr Robert Max

Sir, Mr and Mrs Riley are fortunate to have found the perfect excuse to crack open a 25-year-old bottle of Mouton Rothschild or Pichon-Lalande. The wines of 1970 are drinking beautifully now, and the purchase of one bottle from a good wine merchant should not necessitate re-mortgaging their house.

Yours enviously,
ROBERT MAX,
5 Asmuns Hill, NW11,
October 13.

From Mr Michael Hall

Sir, Mr and Mrs Riley's mortgage celebration: first, a night on the tiles, then the life of Riley.

Yours (paid off by 2013),
MICHAEL HALL,
8 Dulwich Wood Avenue, SE19,
October 13.

From Mr C. W. Rome

Sir, Why not sent the equivalent of a month's repayment to Shelter?

Yours faithfully,
C. W. ROME,
Grattons, Dunsfold, Surrey.
October 13.

From Mr C. E. C. Sykes

Sir, The Rileys should extend their mortgage immediately, so as not to lose out on any benefit which might arise when their building society demutualises or is taken over.

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND SYKES,
Midham House,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire.
October 13.

From Mr Martin H. T. Gairdner

Sir, However the Rileys may choose to celebrate paying off their mortgage I can only hope that, given the cost of living, they will not have to take out another mortgage to pay for the celebration.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN GAIRDNER,
Heath Farmhouse, Heath Lane,
Busbridge, Godalming, Surrey.
October 16.

From Mr Graham Roberts

Sir, Perhaps Mr Riley could take out a funeral insurance policy?

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ROBERTS,
T. Conchar & Sons
(Funeral Directors),
4 Woodland Road West,
Colwyn Bay, Cwyd,
October 13.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-6046.

1

As Radio 3 swims with the populist current, its precious identity is in danger of drowning, leaving listeners adrift

A fish called Haydn? I care not

THE sinking feeling that the Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells are right once again came over me last week when Paul Gambaccini introduced Zetina's aria from *Don Giovanni* on Radio 3. We were about to hear "Ba-tee, ba-tee, bel Masetto", he said, hitting the second syllable of "batti" as if he were saying "batti" without the "k".

Bad enough for anybody named Gambaccini not to know the Italian imperative for "to beat", disastrous for Radio 3 to have a new presenter who sounded as though he had never before heard the aria. Anybody who knows this vocal number — to borrow the vocabulary that the ex-Radio 1, ex-Classic FM disc jockey is using to

bring it at 9 — knows that Mozart's liking sado-masochistic plea for forgiveness simply cannot be sung without the stress on the "bat".

I must leave it to those less phonetically challenged than me to complain about the shock of an American accent early in the

morning on Radio 3. What hurts my own transatlantic sensibilities is not the accent but the over-friendly manner: the slow enunciation of key adjectives in case we miss the point, the reminder that Glenn Gould — the Canadian pianist Glenn Gould — once had a goldfish named Haydn.

And I hate being told repeatedly to deny the evidence of my ears. Radio 3 is not going down market. So insists its nice Controller, Nicholas Kenyon, in reasoned, intelligent Radio 3 tones that imply he simply wouldn't allow it. Arguing with him to the contrary is like arguing for a free press in a totalitarian country. "But we have one! We have one!" the Minister of Information will shout pointing to a constitutional article 123456, which says right there in print that free speech is absolutely guaran-

teed to all of its citizens. It is just my bad luck, I guess, that every time I turn on Radio 3 to escape from the Strauss waltzes of Classic FM and the rock punditis of Radio 4, I get Strauss waltzes or rock music. Or cocktail piano. Or movie music. Or a look into "musical things to do" at a comprehensive school in Wales. Then there is all that jazz. Last Saturday *Jazz Record Requests* was followed a few hours later by reviews of jazz CDs, then by "Sinatra's jazz".

Never mind. If I hold out until Friday midnight, I can join a repeat of Radio 3's *Journey in Search of Forgotten Musicals*. Not dumbing-down? Gimme a break. At least Gerald Kaufman, MP, hears what I hear. He is now saying that so great is the deterioration of intellectual quality on



BRENDA MADDOX

Radio 3 that, as chairman of the National Heritage Select Committee, he regrets endorsing the renewal of the BBC's charter. He vows not to vote for it unless a clause is inserted obliging the BBC to safeguard standards.

Radio 3 stalwarts do not want "easy listening", they do not want pop biographies and personal interviews to help the music to slide down. They want musicology. They want what used to be called "talks", not chat.

Why should serving this elite be politically unwise? Specialisation is the ideology of the hour. Government policy has encouraged more and more commercial stations to get on the air, to serve smaller and smaller fragments of taste. If the BBC could sacrifice millions of Radio 1 listeners in pursuit of quality, it should be able to risk one high-minded network for Olympian tastes. Radio 3 should be going up-market, not down.

Undeniably, Radio 3 still displays plenty of respect for the best of British. Many accents remain impeccable: notably that of Susan Sharpe, whose *Home Counties* voiceprint on *Afternoon on Three* seems oddly identical to that of Liz Forgan, the BBC's head of radio. Has anyone ever seen them together? Then, too, there has been *This Fair Isle*, the remarkable year-long festival of British music. I would have enjoyed it even more had it not so neatly coincided with the BBC's campaign to have its charter renewed.

TOO MUCH of Middle England, all the same, can be too much of a good thing. Accordingly, I shall vacate this spot for the next two weeks for a trip to Hong Kong and China, taking with me, of course, my BBC World Service short-wave frequency guide.



Stirred: Grant St Clair-Armstrong and Michelle Hicks are just two of the 30,000 hopefuls who applied to feature in the next glamour commercial

In search of a right one

The wannabes are queuing to join the kitsch world of Martini's trademark adverts, reports Guy Walters

Now that the 1990s style revival is in full swing, or rather full on, the recent reappearance of advertising for Martini seems appropriate. Marginally more delicious than that other 1970s totum Old Spice, Martini's image has been firmly stuck in a decade that brought us Roger Moore in *The Persuaders*. Martini is forever associated with a cheesy glamour that allowed nomadic waitresses to reveal their behinds as they roller-skated drinks to moustachioed medalion men.

The latest television advertisement plays a montage of that campaign's greatest hits: a gaudy compilation of blue-eyed shadow, speedboats and beautiful people, topped with those unforgettable lyrics: "Any time, any place, anywhere, there's a wonderful world you can share. It's right here, it's the bright one, it's Martini." Martini is back with a vengeance, the advert claims, and at the finale, viewers are invited to take part: "Are you the best looking person you know?" smarms Bob Peck. "Call this number and you could be lucky enough to appear in our new commercials."

The campaign is being run by Howell, Henry, Chaldecott,

Lury and by last week's closing date for entries the information line had been called 30,000 times, with 5,000 hopefuls sending their pictures in. "We've used the compilation to excite people and get them involved," says Emma Jenks, who is organising casting for the new campaign. "The Martini image is that of someone who joins in. It's about being good-looking with a twist."

Peter York, style commentator and advertising aficionado, says: "The campaign displays a typical Howell Henry touch. They are always seeking to change the rules of the game: adding an interactive element and introducing bigger issues." The firm also produced the notorious Tango orange advertisement, which permanently altered the nature of soft drink advertising. "Their approach tends to change the agenda greatly," says Mr York. "It was obviously felt that Marti-

ni was not an involving product, and so now they are literally getting people involved. It's obviously got an element of *Blind Date* to it, but I think it's very clever."

A shortlist of 300 will be invited to audition later this month. They will be assessed by a panel of experts, who will perhaps choose a mere two to play a couple, "although we're not Gold Blend," says Ms Jenks. The new adverts have not yet been storyboarded, but Ms Jenks maintains that they will not be send-ups of the 1970s campaign. "We're proud of our Seventies roots," says Chris Meredith, the mar-

keting controller for Martini, "but we want to be charting a new course."

However, the underlying conceit will be the same: people dressed up to enjoy Martini, revelling in an updated form of the cosmetic vanity of style's greatest decade. However, "there will be no bottoms," says Ms Jenks. A trawl through the applications is a task that brings both amusement and pathos. "Most have taken it very seriously," says Ms Jenks. "In their view they really are the best-looking person." Some of these wannabe-Martini drinkers are indeed reasonably good-looking, but most would be more suitable as "before" in a skin-care campaign. Some have included full CVs, hoping that this will enhance their aesthetic appeal. One lists his interests as "the American and Canadian trucking industry and growing traditional and exotic vegetables." A 25-year-old from east

London tells the sad story of how she was chosen to advertise stockings, but "mother's phone was out of order so I lost the job".

Curiously, most of the female applicants sing their own praises, while many men just send a photograph and telephone number. Some positively do themselves down: "My weight is 13 stone," writes one. "And I have broad shoulders, a chubby face and am generally chunky."

However, one man, thinking himself an Adonis, submitted 27 entries in a variety of poses: in the woods, by a lake, in a room — all suggesting his staggering ability to be anywhere, at least. "My figure is shapely and well-toned," reads a typical female entry. "You won't be disappointed when you see me." Others compare themselves to famously glamorous women: "Major achievements include winning a Princess Di lookalike contest," and "With my hair down, I look a bit like Gloria Estefan."

Another wrote: "I am, I believe, extremely attractive and intelligent." That may well be true, but whether she is the right one and the right one is for the judges to decide.

Brian MacArthur on how we dissect the newspapers

Now that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has decreed that journalists should be taxed for buying newspapers, I take only four on a Sunday — but they are now so heavy that they are delivered, tied up in brown paper, secured with string, and plopped on the front doorstep because they certainly won't go through the letter box. I then set about stripping away all the unwanted sections.

It is that act of discarding the bits of surplus paper — and it is estimated that it would take 15 hours to read the 11 sections of *The Sunday Times* — that has worried advertisers ever since the Sunday papers started adding new sections seven years ago. One question has been nagging away at them as they place advertisements worth nearly £2 billion a year: is anybody reading them?

Two big buyers of newspaper advertisements, Leo Burnett Media and CIA MediaLab, have now published research studies showing that advertisers' fears are groundless. Newspapers are read far more thoroughly than even journalists might suspect. While many readers may throw several bits of their papers away, there are still hundreds of thousands of readers of niche sections.

Take, as one example, *The Times*, which is read on average by 1,745,000 people a day and many more on Saturdays — based on an assumption that each copy has up to three readers. Culling the two reports shows that nine out of ten readers read the main section thoroughly, as they do Section 2, devoted to business, arts and sport (the highest penetration of any paper for the second section). The Thursday appointments section, *The Times* 3, has more than 600,000 readers (35 per cent).

On Saturdays, readers devote an hour and a half to the paper — more time than for several of the Sundays. More than nine in ten read *The Magazine*, and 78 per cent — about 1.5 million — read *Vision*, the TV listings section. More than a million read the *Weekend* section and more than 500,000 read *Car 95*. Such results are broadly mirrored by all national newspapers.

It is the results for *The Sunday Times*, which has 3.8 million readers, that will be scrutinised most closely, however. Does anybody read all those sections? Not all of them, certainly, but *The Sunday Times* is read for longer — 107

Read all about it in every section

minutes — than any other paper. More than half its readers read the *Funday Times* comic, the jobs and personal finance sections, and 70 per cent or more read the *Books*, *Travel*, *Business* or *Style* sections, with higher ratings for the rest.

The two surveys throw up some other fascinating conclusions. Men and women want very different reading matter. Fifteen types of newspaper sections were surveyed. For men, sport ranked third, technology seventh, followed by motoring and personal finance. For women, sport was ninth and personal finance, technology and motoring were in the relegation zone at 13th, 14th and 15th. Style and fashion and magazines were fifth and sixth for women but 15th and 12th for men.

As sales of Sunday papers decline — they are down by 800,000 over the past five

years to 16 million last month — Saturday papers, enhanced by so many new sections, are becoming increasingly popular. According to the new research, 36 per cent consider Saturday papers offer them enough reading to last all weekend and one in four prefers them to the *Sundays*.

Meanwhile, sales of national dailies, obviously helped by the price-cutting wars but against all trends since the Second World War, have slightly increased and are up by 36,000 in 1991 to 14,563,000 a day.

As the tables show, the trends set when News International, owners of *The Sun*, *The Times* and *Today*, started slashing prices have now been sustained for two years, with *The Sun* (at more than four million) and *The Times* still performing well. The *Daily Telegraph* still hovering unsteadily at just over a million a day, *The Sunday Telegraph* dipping now that price-cutting has been removed, the *Mirror* Group titles stabilising, and *The Observer*, now revamped, adding 40,000 last month.

Seen over the longer term of five years, the Mail group has consistently out-performed the Express Group: sales of the *Mirror* group titles are well down, *The Sunday Telegraph* has been a striking success, and *The Guardian*, without cutting its price, has withstood the opposition from *The Times* and the *Independent*.

WINNERS AND LOSERS IN THE PRICE WAR

National Dailies				
	Avg daily sale	Comp'd with Sept '94	% change	Comp'd with Sept '91
QUALITY				
D Telegraph	1,082,292	-26,030	-2.32	+1,040
The Times	881,538	+74,495	+12.27	+295,935
The Guardian	388,259	-12,487	-3.04	-14,998
The Mirror	225,520	+5,286	+1.80	+9,615
Independent	225,407	+3,376	+1.16	-66,798
MIDDLE				
D Mail	1,895,197	+87,446	+4.52	+177,355
D Express	1,288,557	-54,553	-4.12	-380,571
Today	555,194	-19,789	-3.24	+124,261
POPULAR				
The Sun	4,045,117	-104,773	-2.52	+282,966
D Mirror	2,589,038	+6,286	+0.25	-365,025
The Star	757,080	+3,574	+0.47	-88,565
National Sundays				
	Avg Sunday sale	Comp'd with Sept '94	% change	Comp'd with Sept '91
QUALITY				
S Times	1,277,448	+44,218	+3.53	+100,305
S Telegraph	672,172	-4,419	-0.64	+101,283
S Guardian	476,838	-454	-0.10	-53,716
S Independent	330,026	+14,291	+4.53	-55,997
MIDDLE				
Mail/Sunday	2,090,017	+188,388	+8.76	+154,744
S Express	1,404,261	-59,186	-4.04	-289,024
POPULAR				
Now	4,779,403	-75,699	-1.56	-200,728
S Mirror	2,586,583	+6,063	+0.23	-289,457
The People	2,100,076	+17,418	+0.83	-122,727

Source: ABC

Walt is a satellite winner

ALTHOUGH satellite and cable viewing accounts for nearly 37 per cent of viewing, time in households which subscribe to non-terrestrial television, audiences for individual programmes rarely exceed one million.

The Disney Channel, which was introduced in Britain on October 1, had a respectable first day on air, attracting 1.3 million viewers to its animated classic *The Jungle Book*. However, the new channel will have an uphill struggle maintaining those kinds of figures — it is still the big sporting

events which attract the biggest satellite and cable audiences.

Eric Cantona's comeback match for Manchester United against Liverpool topped the satellite ratings chart for the week ending October 1, attracting 1.9 million viewers to Sky Sport. It was followed by *Bigtime Boxing* in which Prince Naseem Hamed won the WBO featherweight title in a fight against Steve Robinson.

ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE TIMES TOP TELEVISION SCHEDULE

THE TIME							
September 25 to October 1, 1995							
Network	Date	Time	Channel	Programme	Genre	Aud (M) A14-44	
1	Coronation Street	Fri 25	19.25	ITV	Grenada Television	Soap	18.4
2	Bigtime Boxing	Sun 01	18.30	ITV	Yorkshire Television	Drama Series	18.2
3	Eastenders	Tue 26	18.25	BBC1	BBC	Soap	15.7
4	London's Burning	Sun 01	21.05	ITV	LWT	Drama Series	14.8
5	Crusaders	Sat 30	20.07	BBC2	BBC	Drama Series	14.6
6	Keeping Up Appearances	Sun 01	20.30	BBC1	BBC	Comedy	12.9
7	Yorke's Bean Farm	Sun 01	20.31	ITV	Grenada Television	Entertainment	12.4
8	European Football	Sun 01	20.31	ITV	Grenada Television	Drama Series	12.4
9	Soldier Soldier	Tue 26	21.01	ITV	BBC	Entertainment	12.3
10	The National Lottery Live	Fri 25	19.51	BBC1	Thames Television	Drama Series	11.9
Sat 30							
1	Super Sunday Match	Sun 01	18.00	SKY5	SKY5	Sport	1.9
2	Bigtime Boxing	Sun 01	21.30	SKY5	SKY5	Sport	1.7
3	The Jungle Book	Sun 01	18.30	SKY5	SKY5	Cartoon	1.0
4	The Simpsons	Sun 01	18.00	SKY5	SKY5	Cartoon	0.9
5	On Deadly Ground	Sun 01	18.00	SKY5	SKY5	Cartoon	0.8
6	European Football	Sun 01	20.30	SKY5	SKY5	Sport	0.8
7	The Strand	Wed 27	21.01	SKY5	SKY5	Sport	0.7
8	Football	Tue 26	20.01	SKY1	SKY1	Sport	0.7
9	Football	Sun 01	18.01	SKY1	SKY1	Sport	0.4
10	Beverly Hills 90210	Sun 01	18.01	SKY1	SKY1	Documentary	0.4

Source: *Media Research Ltd* (R1) 322200

Source: Broadcasters' Audience Research Society/Clarke Graham & Associates (01823 322829)

John Diamond puzzles over the revelation that most true-blue newspapers are red all over

When you labour for the Tory press

YOU don't have to hold a Labour Party card to believe that we have a Tory press in Britain, just a grasp of basic mathematics. At the last election for every copy of a paper which, often less than unequivocally, enjoined its readers to vote for Neil Kinnock, there were two or more copies cheering for John Major.

And yet a survey by MORI for the School of Media at the London College of Printing shows that of 726 national and regional journalists interviewed, 57 per cent intend voting Labour at the next election and only 6 per cent Conservative. Yes, we have a Tory press but it's run by Labour Party supporters. The response in Fleet Street to this revelation is a mixture of cynicism and shoulder-shrugging.

When Lord McAlpine, then Conservative Party treasurer, thanked *The Sun* for winning the 1992 election for the Conservatives, that paper was happy to accept the praise, and Chris Roycroft-Davis, *The Sun's* assistant editor, is pretty sure none of the paper's senior managers supports Labour. Is he surprised at the survey's results? "I'm not surprised that socialists are happy to earn large amounts of money and pay only 40 per cent tax" is as near as he'll go to admitting that not all his writers support the paper's political

line. Paul Foot, lately of the *Daily Mirror* and now of *Private Eye*, is hardly more surprised. "This has always been the case. We did a straw poll in 1970 which showed that 80 per cent of the journalists on the *Daily Mail* supported Labour. It's a terrible dilemma for many journalists." Most proprietors make no secret of their political loyalties. Conrad Black at *The Daily Telegraph*, Lord Rothermere at Associated Newspapers and Rupert Murdoch here at News International are all avowed Conservatives, albeit some with a small "c". On the other hand Sir David English announced in *The Spectator* the other week that he could imagine his boss, Lord Rothermere, allowing his papers to support Tony Blair. Murdoch has flirted with the Labour leader most publicly and allowed his *Today* to move to support the Labour Party.

Conversely, it is generally assumed that David Montgomery, who runs the Labour-supporting *Mirror* Group and who, presumably, sanctioned running a Labour Party membership form as editorial rather than advertising copy last week, is personally somewhere to the right of his papers' editorials. Chris Smith, the Shadow Heritage Secretary within whose remit comes Labour's press policy, is sanguine about the



Foot: "a journalist's dilemma"

meeting and tell people you work for Tesco and nobody will ask how you can use your professional skills working for a company which regularly gives money to the Tory party. Say you work for *The Daily Telegraph*, and they treat you as if you're personally conspiring with Conrad Black to privatise the neighbourhood pavements.

"I'm just a professional doing my job, like anyone else. When you talk about the Tory press, you're not just talking about Peregrine Worsthorne and Woodrow Wyatt and Bernard Ingham, you're talking about hundreds of editors and sub-editors. Nobody pays us for our political views in the same way as nobody pays a middle manager at Tesco for his political views."

But if journalists have so little effect on a paper's editorial line, why does the Labour Party woo the unwelcome? Chris Smith said: "Certainly, we're aware that some papers will never support us, but there are papers which came out against us last time but might not the next time."

And if pigs do fly and the *Daily Mail* does support Labour at the next election, nobody should be surprised if Conservative journalists on the staff just carry on doing their job regardless.

NEWS

Labour steps up Howard pressure

Labour stepped up the pressure on Michael Howard's resignation when he was accused of being "less than frank" to the Commons over the management of Britain's jails. He will be pressed further today when the Opposition stages an emergency debate on the prisons service.

Tony Blair challenged the Home Secretary's claim that he did not interfere in the day-to-day running of the service, alleging that he had personally intervened after the Parkhurst prison escape to demand the suspension of the governor, John Marriott. Page 1

Court outlaws positive discrimination

Positive discrimination favouring women in the jobs market is unlawful, the European Court of Justice said in a ruling that renders many quota schemes illegal. Page 1

Baby's escape

A baby girl was safe and well with her family last night after she fell from the garden of her home and was carried for more than a quarter of a mile down a treacherous river. Page 1

Demand softened

Sir Patrick Mayhew is prepared to soften a demand for the decommissioning of IRA arms in an attempt to revive the Northern Ireland peace process. Page 2

Accountant jailed

The former accountant of Sting, the rock musician, was jailed for six years after a jury found him guilty of stealing £6 million from the musician to finance a series of business ventures. Page 3

Sweet dreams

An amateur explorer who plans to reach the stars under sugar power unveiled his latest rocket, in the driveway of his house in a Manchester suburb. Page 3

Emergency GPs

More patients will be expected to go to their family doctor in an emergency rather than hospital under plans to be unveiled by Stephen Dorrell today. Page 4

Police murder charge

A police marksman was charged with murdering a suspected car thief. PC Patrick Hodgson is believed to be the first mainland officer to face a charge of murder on duty. Page 5

Rebecca and Thomas, names at the top

Rebecca and Thomas have become the favourite first names for the children of the nineties. Thomas has made it to number one having never before been in the top ten according to figures compiled by government statisticians from registrars' returns. Rebecca came into the top hundred at 98 in 1964 but has soared up through the charts each decade since. Page 1

Child smokers

The number of children in England who smoke rose by a fifth last year, the first increase since 1990. Page 6

Green and pleasant

A "new vision" to regenerate the countryside economy in the 21st century was unveiled by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, in a White Paper on rural England, the first comprehensive survey for 50 years. Page 8

Heseltine victory

Michael Heseltine has overcome opposition from Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, and called for MPs to examine the workings of the Civil Service. Page 9

Underground bomb

A bomb believed to have been planted by Islamic extremists exploded on a Paris underground train during the morning rush-hour, injuring at least 29 people in the eighth terrorist incident in France since July. Page 10

Threatening leader

White America was confronted by a new black leader, and Louis Farrakhan, of the militant Nation of Islam, is more threatening than his predecessors. Page 11

African catastrophe

Southern Africa is facing a catastrophe of unprecedented proportions, according to scientists who predict a drought lasting for 100 years. Page 12



President Ahtisaari of Finland inspecting a guard of honour after being greeted by the Queen at the start of his state visit

BUSINESS

Barrings: Trading losses might not have brought down the bank if management had acted earlier, according to a report by Singapore inspectors. Page 25

IBM: The corporation reported a loss of \$543 million for the third quarter of 1995 blamed on a \$1.8 billion write off related to the recent acquisition of Lotus, the software group. Page 27

Job figures: The Government's chief statistician says that a new monthly measure of unemployment is the best way of restoring public credibility to the controversial jobless figures. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 4.9 to 3562.2. Sterling fell to 84.2 after falls from \$1.5760 to \$1.5738 and DM2.2374 to DM2.2398. Page 28

Cricket: The England team set off today for their first tour of South Africa in 30 years. It will not be a gentle, genial escapade; the outcome is likely to be dictated by hostile bowling. Page 46

Football: The FA squashed suggestions that Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, had been offered a technical director post. Page 48

Tennis: Clare Wood gave British tennis a refreshing tonic by winning her first-round game against Karina Habšudová, of Slovakia, in aggressive style at the Brighton tournament. Page 43

Racing: Declan Murphy finished seventh on Southampton at Cheltenham on his first ride over hurdles since his career-threatening fall at Haydock 18 months ago. Page 45

Native talent: "I only took the LSO job on the condition that I wouldn't have any power," says Sir Colin Davis about his new conducting appointment, which starts with concerts this weekend. Page 37

On stage: Benedict Nightingale reviews a pretty but misconceived new production of Orway's *Venice Preserved*; Kate Basset on a starry cast for *Hobson's Choice*. Page 39

All's well at the Wells? Will Sadler's Wells's £40 million redevelopment mean that London gets a theatre suitable for top dance companies? Experts fear not. Page 39

Rickie returns: After a decade of comparative quiet, singer Rickie Lee Jones entranced a packed Palladium on Monday. Page 37

Underneath the Archers: Libby Purves on the characters of rural Ambridge and how they might react to the measures in John Gummer's White Paper. Page 15

Pretty woman: Iain R. Webb reports from Paris on next summer's lacy, brightly coloured and see-through look. Page 14

The right one: The wannabes are queuing to join the kitsch world of Martin's trademark ads. Page 23

Sounds off: Brenda Maddox argues that there is no need for "accessible" accounts on Radio 3 when there are accessible accounts everywhere else. Page 23

Despite the unsavouriness of the messenger and many of his views, if every man at that match goes home and does precisely as he suggested, the world will be a better place. — *Washington Times*

There is a chance that the day can inspire blacks and whites with more embracing philosophies than Mr Farrakhan's to keep on marching toward the dream. — *New York Times*

Louis Farrakhan wooed black men to Washington with a righteous cause. It's a shame he sent them home with such a sorry message. — *USA Today*

Preview: The Model T brought motoring to the masses. *People's Century* (BBC1, 10pm) Review: Lynne Truss discovers what the British do to unwanted racehorses. Page 47

American comeback

Americans are still the world's most inventive, ambitious and self-reliant creators of wealth. That is a lesson that Mr Farrakhan seems to have understood. Page 17

Country caution

John Gummer's White Paper on rural England resembles the English countryside seen from the air: a patchwork quilt of policies sewn together into a broadly coherent whole. Page 17

Superman again

Superman will never resume his old role; but in facing, in front of a million screens, the greatest challenge imaginable he is indeed giving truth to his film title. Page 17

SIMON JENKINS

If the man in *Whitehall* thinks he knows best and is found out, he can now expect to be sacked. This is progress. But what of the man who thought the man in *Whitehall* knew best? Page 16

BRUCE ANDERSON

In the case of the Prison Service, the armed forces should also be the recruiting office. As a result of the *Options for Change* armed forces review, several thousand officers' and warrant officers' military careers came to a premature end. Prisons above all are ideally suited to their skills. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

The House, and the party leaders, need to consider a broader package including the pay of MPs, and ministers, as well as the outside interests of MPs. Page 9

Lord Pritchard, businessman, Harriet Hawkins-Buckley, lecturer and critic the *Venerable* Sam Woodhouse, Archdeacon of London and Canon Residentiary of St Paul's, 1967-78, William Murray, writer and teacher. Page 19

Boxing: "waffle and fudge" on Europe; child benefit: marking science exams; football on television. Page 17

IN THE TIMES

VIRTUAL REALITY

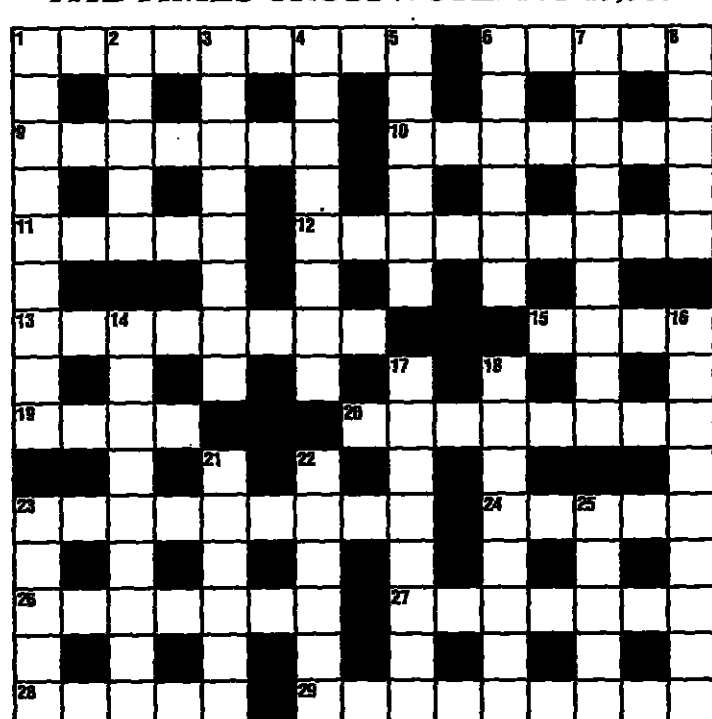
Matthew Parris on attitudes to homosexuality and Andrew Sullivan's *Virtually Normal*

FILMS

Geoff Brown reviews Alicia Silverstone in *Clueless*



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,989



- ACROSS**
- One philandering outside the sultanate is more discreet (9)
 - Wounded pride cuts the game short (5)
 - Cut short detailed complaint (7)
 - Family criminal rehabilitated thus if received by Chinese leader (7)
 - Student gripped by strong rhythm heard in 4 (5)
 - First division supporter? Not altogether (9)
 - A French politician fearful of being banned (8)
 - A bird provides part of his alibi, strangely enough (4)
 - The same old city, and so grim (4)
 - Sally appears to go without one meal, say (8)
 - A letter revealing moral strength (9)
 - Helped to produce poster featuring fish (5)
 - Reservation in book is October 1 (7)
- DOWN**
- Fruit causing cockney confusion and trouble (7)
 - Poem or song mostly introduced during Scripture (5)
 - Carriage seen in estate leased by a university (9)
 - On the move, like a young man taking Soule's advice (9)
 - Sounds like a woman's cereal (5)
 - He may work late with long breaks (5-3)
 - Female boss holding record area of grazing land? (5-3)
 - Comment from soldier married on ship (6)
 - Diver endlessly breathing in quick short breaths (6)
 - Quite bold when developing a scholastic argument (9)
 - Thin and emaciated Oriental first seen in wood (5)
 - Expressing praise for archbishop — an opponent of the Whigs (9)
 - Career cricketer keeping old vessel (9)
 - Fruit put English member in great discomfort (8)
 - Star with house in Florence — a noted 1 ac (8)
 - Superficial notes kept in folder (6)
 - Move unharmed when revolution is under way (6)
 - He manages to make a profit from the Arabs, possibly (5)
 - Part of the constituency upset over politician's way of speaking (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,988

BAGASSE BACKBIT
ASTA EPHEMERAL
FIRE IN THE
EUROPEAN ANECDOTE
A L W A D U
CACHIE GUARANTY
L A A N U
DEVELOPER ALBUM
I A S R O P
BOOSTING CYPRUS
E L E T S L E T
STEAMSHIP LODGE
O N P U R I O A
METHODS YASHMAK

THE TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
Kent/Surrey/Sussex	702
Doncaster & York	703
Derby & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire/Somerset	705
Bedfordshire	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Northants/Cambs	708
West Mid & Shropshire	709
Shropshire & Wales	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Derbyshire & Cheshire	714
Yorkshire & Cleveland	715
NW England	716
Wales & Wales & Wales	717
NE England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
SW Scotland	720
W Scotland	721
Edinburgh & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
NW Scotland	725
Central Highlands & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercast is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Area	Forecast
London & SE traffic	731
South West/Sussex/Devon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Devon	733
M25 London Orbital only	734
National motorways	735
West Country	736
East Angles	737
East Angles	738
East Angles	739
East Angles	740
East Angles	741
East Angles	742
East Angles	743
East Angles	744
East Angles	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Shrewsbury, 20C (68F); lowest day temp: Banbury, 10C (50F); highest night temp: Oxford, 10C (50F); lowest night temp: Banbury, 5C (41F).

Location	Highest	Lowest
London	14	8
Edinburgh	10	4
Belfast	10	4
Cardiff	10	4
Manchester	10	4
Sheffield	10	4
Nottingham	10	4
Leeds	10	4
Birmingham	10	4
Coventry	10	4
Warwick	10	4
Gloucester	10	4
Bristol	10	4
Bath	10	4
Salisbury	10	4
Windsor	10	4
Reading	10	4
Southampton	10	4
Portsmouth	10	4
Brighton	10	4
London	10	4

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General: most of Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a mainly dry and bright day. Wet and windy weather over the far northwest of Scotland will edge slowly southwards, reaching Northern Ireland and southwest Scotland by the evening.

England and Wales will have a generally dry and bright day, with sunny periods. The best of the sunshine should be in the east. It will be cooler than of late across the UK and very windy across northwest Scotland.

London, SE, E England, E Anglia: dry and sunny. Winds light westerly. Warm in the sun. Max 17C (63F).

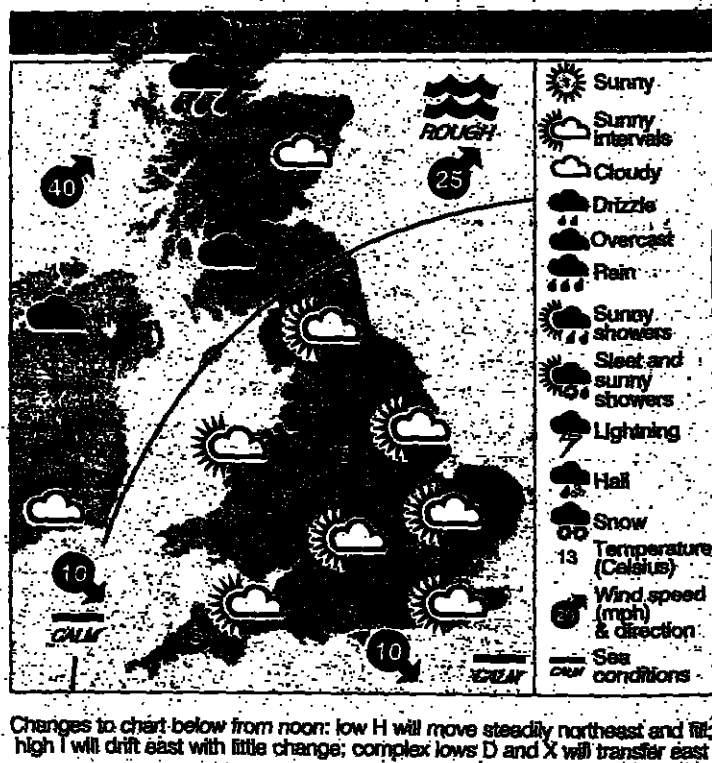
Central S, Central N, SW, NW, NE England, E, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Wales: dry and bright with sunny spells. Winds light southwesterly. Max 16C (61F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland: mainly dry and bright, becoming cloudy later. Winds fresh southwesterly. Max 15C (59F).

Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, N Ireland: a bright start, rain by the evening. Winds fresh to strong southwesterly. Max 13C (55F).

NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: rain at first, blustering showers in the afternoon. Winds pale force southwesterly easing later. Max 13C (55F).

Outlook: Dry and bright in the south. Rain in the north moving south on Friday.



Changes to chart below from noon: low H will move steadily northeast and fill; high I will drift east with little change; complex lows D and X will transfer east

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	14	10	10
Edinburgh	10	10	10
Belfast	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10
Leeds	10	10	10
Birmingham	10	10	10
Coventry	10	10	10
Warwick	10	10	10
Gloucester	10	10	10
Bristol	10	10	10
Bath	10	10	10
Salisbury	10	10	10
Windsor	10	10	10
Reading	10	10	10
Southampton	10	10	10
Portsmouth	10	10	10
Brighton	10	10	10
London	10	10	10

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	14	10	10
Edinburgh	10	10	10
Belfast	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10
Leeds	10	10	10
Birmingham	10	10	10
Coventry	10	10	10
Warwick	10	10	10
Gloucester	10	10	10
Bristol	10	10	10
Bath	10	10	10
Salisbury	10	10	10
Windsor	10	10	10
Reading	10	10	10
Southampton	10	10	10
Portsmouth	10	10	10
Brighton	10	10	10
London	10	10	10

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ON THE MOVE 30-33

Taking the pain out of company relocations

ARTS 37-39

Sir Colin Davis outlines his plans for the LSO

SPORT 43-48

Atherton leads England into unknown territory

SECOND-HAND OFFICES: THE BEST LETS
Page 36

THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

CSO chief seeks a 'more credible' count for jobless

By Philip Baggett
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

A NEW monthly measure of unemployment is the best way to restore public credibility for the politically controversial jobless figures, Tim Holt, director of the Government's Central Statistical Office (CSO), said.

In an interview with *The Times* today, Dr Holt says that though the unemployment figures have been depoliticised by being moved from

the now-scrapped Department of Employment to the CSO, a new monthly count in line with European standards needs to be "seriously considered" by the Government.

Eric Forth, the Education and Employment Minister, will today announce the latest unemployment figures. Ministers hope that they will continue the two-year fall in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit. But the Government's principal statistician strongly suggests today that the

Government will introduce a new monthly measure of unemployment in order to improve public confidence in the way joblessness is counted.

A review of the unemployment figures, set up in July, seems certain to propose a change when it reports at the end of this year. The current monthly figures are a count of the number of people out of work and claiming benefit on one day each month.

Labour leaders and independent

employment analysts argue that this claimant-count figure seriously underestimates the actual number of people who are unemployed. Earlier this year, an authoritative study of the unemployment figures by the independent Royal Statistical Society proposed that the Government should introduce a new monthly measure of unemployment based on a different count. The RSS said the Government should make monthly its currently quarterly Labour Force Survey, which measures

unemployment in line with European and international standards — the so-called ILO, or International Labour Organisation, count.

Dr Holt said that while he welcomes the Government's decision that the CSO should now publish the figures, leaving the Education and Employment Department to comment upon them, further moves must be made if the jobless statistics are to command full public confidence. But ministers claim that the cost of moving to a

monthly ILO count would be too high.

Unemployment among black workers is twice as high as that of white workers, a TUC report says today, with more than half of all black men aged 16-24 out of work. Meanwhile, policies to improve environmental quality are likely to be good for jobs, says a report today prepared by Lancaster University for the Employment Policy Institute.

No gloss, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES		
FT-SE 100	3362.2	(+4.9)
Yield	3.96%	
FT-SE All share	1751.22	(+1.58)
Nikkei	17916.60	(-59.24)
Dow Jones	4778.24	(-8.14)
S&P Composite	582.80	(-0.28)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	107 1/8	(107 1/8)
Yield	6.33%	(6.31%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)
Libor 1-month	105 1/8	(105 1/8)

STERLING		
New York	1.5737	(1.5740)
London	1.5735	(1.5753)
DM	2.2270	(2.2378)
FF	7.8120	(7.8100)
Sfr	1.3682	(1.3721)
Yen	157.83	(158.24)
£ Index	84.2	(84.3)

DOLLAR		
London	1.4141	(1.4240)
DM	4.9618	(4.9665)
FF	1.1478	(1.1545)
Sfr	100.29	(100.63)
Yen	92.7	(92.7)

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$16.00	(\$16.15)

GOLD		
London close	\$383.50	(\$383.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Winning bid for Rosyth

THE Rosyth 2000 consortium combining Babcock International with three leading Scottish companies has been chosen as preferred tenderer for the Rosyth naval base.

James Arbuthnot, the Minister for Defence Procurement, said final discussions are under way. Babcock, Bank of Scotland, ScottishPower and Forth Ports each have a 25 per cent interest in the consortium, which plans to redevelop the 355-acre site, together with parts of the adjoining Rosyth Royal Dockyard managed by Babcock, as an industrial and office park.

Pennington, page 27
Anthony Harris, page 29

Singapore blames Barings chiefs

By Robert Miller

THE blame for the \$860 million collapse of Barings has been laid squarely on the shoulders of the merchant bank's senior management.

A long-awaited report, published yesterday by the Singapore Government, says that senior managers of the bank stand accused of "institutional incompetence" and a "general lack of understanding of the futures markets where the losses occurred."

Certain Barings executives even tried to hinder investigators, according to the report, into Barings Futures (Singapore) compiled by Michael Lim and Nicky Tan, the Price Waterhouse inspectors appointed by the Ministry of Finance.

The Singapore report draws on material which was denied to UK investigators from the

controls over Mr Leeson, the bank's damage under a mountain of debt could have been averted. It continues that if the management were unaware of the famous Error Account 88888, opened by Mr Leeson to mask his mounting losses, it "gives rise to a strong inference that key individuals of the Barings Group's management were grossly negligent, or wilfully blind and reckless to the truth."

Close friends of Mr Bax and Mr Norris last night said: "The Singapore report is the most unrecognisable version of events. There is clearly another agenda being set by the authorities there."

Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, said: "The Singapore inspectors' report confirms that it is quite wrong to blame the Barings collapse solely on one rogue trader... A Commons debate is now essential. Only the Government can ensure that the supervisory system is overhauled."

Denis MacShane, Labour MP for Rotherham, who has campaigned for Mr Leeson, who is fighting extradition to Singapore from his prison cell in Germany, has written to John Major, the Prime Minister, calling for a judicial inquiry into the collapse of Barings. He said: "The uncontrolled, unregulated, unsupervised trading by London banks in foreign markets is posing a threat to the safety of people's investments, pensions and savings."

Tristan Garel-Jones, the former minister and Mr Leeson's MP, said: "My constituents think that while Leeson might have acted injudiciously it seems that a young lad from Watford is carrying an awful lot of can."

Stephen Pollard, of Kingsley Napley, Mr Leeson's legal firm, said: "The catalogue of incompetence by the Barings management and the conclusion that the collapse of the Barings Group could have been averted had they properly managed the affairs of Barings Futures (Singapore) are crucial to a proper understanding of events."



Vive la difference: Pamela Taylor, who has been appointed chief executive of the Water Companies Association. This represents the private sector former statutory water companies, many now French-owned, that supply a quarter of Britain's drinking water

GrandMet foods chief goes in board shake-up

By Christine Buckley

GRANDMET, the food and drinks giant, yesterday paid off its food sector chief in a £790,000 severance deal and appointed a new chairman and chief executive.

David Nash, who has headed the food sector for two years and worked for GrandMet for six, leaves at the end of January taking an annual bonus worth more than £10,000. Mr Nash is leaving after coming, according to the new chairman George Bull, "within a whisker" of getting the job of chief executive which went to John McGrath, previously head of the company's drinks division.

GrandMet used the change of executives to announce a restructuring, effectively eradicating the food division and separating out Burger King, European food operations and Pearle but will now become the Pillsbury Company which will take in only European foods. Burger King and Pearle will report directly to the chief executive.

Mr Bull, the present chief executive who takes over the

role of chairman from Lord Sheppard in March, said the pay-off to Mr Nash represented redundancy terms as his job had now been abolished.

Mr Bull denied the exclusion of Burger King from the expanded Pillsbury Company — which will be headed by Paul Walsh, the present head of Pillsbury — meant it was being primed to be sold. "We are not getting closer to that," he said. Rumours of a Burger King sale have circulated in the market for several months.

Mr Bull, the present chief executive who takes over the

Pennington, page 27

Carmaker sues former bosses for 'engineering secret takeover'

By Colin Nimbrough

LOTUS, the carmaker, has alleged that its former chief executive and his right-hand man secretly tried to engineer, for a fee of £500,000, a takeover of Lotus this year on behalf of Kia, the South Korean automotive group.

A writ lodged with the High Court yesterday, alleges that the two men failed to disclose to the Lotus board, or the company's owners, a rival written bid for Lotus from Harley Davidson, the American motorcycle maker. It cites the defendants as Adrian

Palmer and Andrew Tempest, who in August were dismissed as managing director and finance director, respectively, of Lotus by Romano Artioli, the Italian owner of Bugatti International, parent company of Lotus.

The two men allegedly "concocted and secretly orchestrated" an attempted takeover by Lotus for Kia under the guise of 21 Invest, one of the companies that last year had discussed buying Lotus with the carmaker.

The writ alleges that "21 Invest was being used by Kia and the first and second defendants to front the takeover." A spokesman for Kia's UK

operations at Surbiton, Surrey, was unable to comment on the allegations.

Mr Palmer and Mr Tempest, who share an office in Norfolk, have sought reinstatement through an industrial tribunal. Mr Tempest said that he would be unable to comment on the writ until consulting his solicitor. Mr Palmer was unavailable.

The writ alleges that the two men wrongfully awarded themselves big bonuses and wrongfully incurred expenses, paid by Lotus, which included a £4,678 flight to Chicago and a £243 restaurant bill.

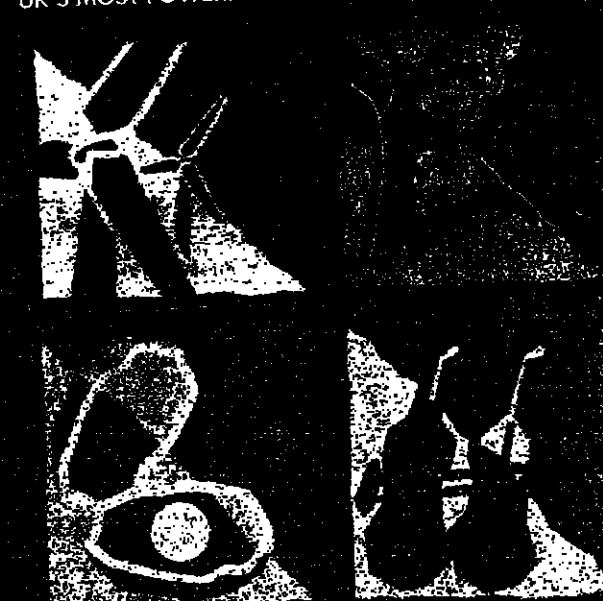
Lotus alleges that the men acted in

breach of the Companies Act 1985 in claiming to other persons involved in the attempted takeover that professional fees would be met by Lotus if the bid failed. The writ puts the bill Mr Palmer and Mr Tempest ran up on professional fees with Price Waterhouse, Booth & Co, Gouldens and McKenna & Co at £196,480. Personal and takeover expenses wrongfully incurred are put at £68,549 for Mr Palmer and £45,098 for Mr Tempest.

Bugatti Automobili was put in the hands of receivers last month, but Lotus says that it is unaffected.

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TRADE INDEMNITY

Dissidents aim to oust board at Signet

By SARAH BAGNALL

REBEL shareholders at Signet, the embattled jeweller, want to oust the majority of the company's directors, marking a further twist in the saga of the former Ratners group.

The shareholders are led by Julian Treger and Brian Myerson, of UK Active Value Fund, and include MD Sass, an US investment house, Everest Capital, a fund manager, and CSFB, the investment bank. UK Active Fund has also appeared on Signet's shareholder register and is pressing for management changes there too.

The dissident shareholders have acquired a 22 per cent stake in Signet, which is trying to restructure an unwieldy capital base, comprising nine classes of equity. The rebels' intentions were disclosed in a filing made to the US Securities and Exchange Commission last week.

The filing states that the shareholders want to promote a restructuring of the company's capital base, enter talks with potential buyers of the US business and take control of the board. The rebels propose "replacing all or a majority of the issuer's directors" and either "replace the executive chairman" or "reassign certain of his duties to other members of the issuer's management".

The identities of directors who would be replaced, and their replacements, are not given in the filing.

James McAdam, Signet chairman, said that the rebels had indicated their wishes at a meeting last week but that "we stated quite clearly that was not the right route".

The company's entire board has been brought in since the financial trouble started and includes David Wellings, chief executive at Cadbury Schweppes, and Brook Land, senior partner at Nabarro Nathanson, as non-executive directors.

Pennington, page 27



Roy Bishko, chairman left, and Nigel McGinley, of Tie Rack, the high street and airport retailer that has resumed the payment of an interim dividend after a six-year absence. The 0.5p payment was unexpected by the City and although profits at £490,000 were below expectations, the shares rose 4p to 154p. *Tempos, page 28*

Ford to create 480 jobs in engine plant expansion

By IOLA SMITH

FORD yesterday announced a £340 million expansion at its engine plant in Bridgend, Wales.

The investment will create 480 jobs directly and a further 500 at component suppliers. The expansion will enable the plant to manufacture a new generation of engines for Fiesta cars. By 1998, the factory will be producing more than a million engines a year.

According to Ford, the investment could have gone to any country in the world. But Alex Trotman, Ford's president, said that the project came to Britain because of the "competitiveness in cost and productivity". The close co-operation between the management and workforce at

Bridgend also impressed the company, particularly as they jointly lobbied Ford's headquarters in Detroit for the investment.

This is the third major investment to be won by Bridgend this decade. The future of the plant, which opened in 1977, is now secure well into the next century.

Grant aid was helpful but not crucial to the choice of location. Ford received £10 million from the Welsh Office. But the company was keen to point out that larger sums were being offered by other governments. It was Britain's commitment to quality that clinched the deal, according to Mr Trotman. "Britain has done a great job improving

quality and productivity over the past ten years," he said. Competitiveness being the key to inward investment was a view shared by Gerwyn Lloyd, Bridgend's convenor. "We recognise what the competition is doing and we have to beat them at their own game. It's all about survival today."

Ian McAllister, chairman of Ford Britain, said Bridgend was a good example of a plant where management, unions and employees worked together as a team.

This is the second major engine plant expansion to be announced by Ford in the UK this year. In April, the Dagenham engine plant was chosen as the site for a £200 million investment in a new diesel

engine programme. Britain is already the largest centre for Ford engine production in Europe, with a total output of more than a million units last year, 80 per cent of which were exported.

Tony Woodley, the Transport and General Workers Union's motor industry national officer, said: "This is a massive vote of confidence for a plant which has the best productivity record of any engine factory in the country."

Toyota, the Japanese vehicle maker, is to expand its plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, while Rover is set to make a decision about a new engine facility, probably in the Midlands, within six months.

Public debt 'will limit tax cuts'

By COLIN NARBROUGH

WEAK tax revenues and higher local authority borrowing produced a public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) of £3.7 billion last month, reinforcing fears that the annual budget deficit will exceed the Government's forecast.

The September deficit — last year's was £4.1 billion — brought the cumulative shortfall for the first half of the fiscal year to £20.4 billion, slightly above the same stage last year.

The Treasury forecast is for a budget deficit of £23.6 billion for the year to March 31. City forecasters now expect it to be in excess of £30 billion. Last year, it was £35.9 billion.

September's PSBR prompted most analysts to comment on the limited scope that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has for a net reduction of tax in his Budget on November 28. Expectations are between £2 billion and £4 billion.

Mr Clarke signalled to the Conservative Party conference last week that his Budget will contain tax cuts.

Expenditure was generally seen to be under control and the Treasury pointed out that the PSBR remained on a downward trend, even if the outcome for the full year might not be as hoped. Excluding privatisation receipts, the PSBR has so far this year narrowed by £2 billion to £20.4 billion.

The British Chambers of Commerce said the Chancellor had to "cut deeply into public spending before he can consider tax cuts".

Business confidence among the leaders of smaller companies has continued to fall, according to *A View from the Boardroom* survey by SBC Warburg.

The survey, conducted by MORI in August and September, says order books, output expectations and employment levels are worsening.

A balance of 21 per cent of companies polled, with a market capitalisation of under £20 million, are now more optimistic about growth prospects than they were three months ago — well below the corresponding balance of 33 per cent in March and 57 per cent in September 1994.

GEC denies rift over hunt for successor

GEC was yesterday forced into making a statement insisting that the board was being fully informed of progress towards finding a successor for Lord Weinstock. Its veteran managing director, Procedures for selecting candidates were reviewed and approved by the board, it said. The statement came after reports that Richard Reynolds, chairman of GFT, GEC's telecommunications equipment subsidiary, was unhappy with the way the search for a new managing director was being conducted.

Lord Prior, GEC's chairman, submitted a report to yesterday's meeting on a shortlist of contenders, the statement said, but "a final decision is not expected before next spring". Speculation over likely contenders to run Britain's biggest electrical and electronic group has ranged from George Simpson, the Lucas chief credited with turning round the Rover car company, to Simon Weinstock, Lord Weinstock's 43-year-old son.

Aran to back Statoil

ARAN ENERGY is expected to recommend a £198 million offer from Statoil today after a decision by Aran not to increase its £178 million offer for the Irish oil exploration company. Statoil, the Norwegian company which last month linked up with Aran in a joint venture to exploit the Connemara oilfield, launched a £176 per share bid for Aran, trumping Aran's £166, but the Norwegians failed to secure an immediate recommendation. Michael Whelan, Aran's chairman, stands to gain £18 million for his shares and options if the bid succeeds. Aran last month published a valuation of its assets putting a price of £110.4p on the company. *Tempos, page 28*

Thames Australian deal

THAMES WATER has won a \$45.1 billion (£75 million) contract to run South Australia's water operations after beating off two other British contenders. Thames won the 15-year contract in consortium with Compagnie des Eaux, the French water company, and Kinhill Engineering, of Australia. North West Water and a consortium involving P&O were the other two bidders. The winning consortium, United Water, will run the water and waste-water system in Adelaide. The decision to award the contract to a group that includes a French company could prompt a row because of anti-French anger over nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

City trader struck off

A MAN convicted of theft and false accounting has been struck off the Securities and Futures Authority's register and his former employer fined. The SFA announced that Walker, Crisp, Weddell, Beck, the retail stockbroker, has been fined £15,000, with £5,000 costs, for failing to exercise proper control over David Sturge, who was sentenced to six months in prison. Walker, Crisp, Weddell, Beck had personal liabilities of £265,190 and had been overtrading two clients' accounts. The SFA said the stockbroker did not "connive" in Sturge's actions and had compensated clients.

Profits slip at soap firm

PATERSON ZOCHONIS, the soap manufacturer whose brands include Imperial Leather, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits to £25.1 million from £28.1 million in the year to May 30. The company, which has extensive African interests, said profits were affected by the political and economic uncertainty in Nigeria. Most units had made a satisfactory start to the current year and first-half profits were expected to show an increase over the same period last year, the company said. The total dividend rises to 15p from 13.85p, with a 12.45p final due on December 4. Earnings were 32.35p a share (36.6p).

Defence telecom bids

TWO consortiums, one led by British Telecom and the other by Racal, the data and telecoms electronics company, have been shortlisted to run the so-called Defence Fixed Telecommunications System, the Ministry of Defence said. The programme is due to replace the 50 independent telecoms networks that currently link the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Ministry of Defence, at a cost of about £160 million a year, by a single, integrated network that is cheaper to operate. A final decision on the contract award is to be made next spring.

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The Guinness appeal

'Evidence denied to defendants'

By JON ASHWORTH AND MELVYN MARCKUS

CRUCIAL evidence relating to whether share indemnities were "all the rage" in the City during the 1980s was denied defendants in the first Guinness trial, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

The findings of a tribunal into share dealing involving TWH, a licensed dealer, would have had a crucial bearing on the trial's course.

The absence of the information was particularly pertinent in the case of Anthony Parnes, the former stockbroker, who is appealing against the original Guinness conviction.

ions, together with Gerald Ronson, Ernest Saunders, and Jack Lyons, Nicholas Purnell, QC, for Mr Parnes, said the TWH material would immediately have been identified as relevant to the issue of whether share indemnities were "all the rage" at the time of the Distillers takeover in 1986. This material would have had a bearing on the defence, on the judge's summing up and on whether Mr Parnes would give evidence.

Trying Mr Parnes separately from the professional advisers who were the target of the aborted Guinness II trial had arguably cut him off from important potential sources of evidence. Mr Parnes was, in effect, a "market guerrilla" whose job was to work the Stock Exchange floor, acquiring information and passing it on to those involved in takeovers.

Serving him from the advisers who had access to detail of what was market practice at that time had cut him off from that line of defence, it was said.

Earlier, Jonathan Caplan, QC, for Mr Saunders, spoke of the public interest immunity certificate issued by John Redwood in October 1989 and used to block notes of conversations between Trade Department officials and inspectors appointed to investigate the Distillers takeover. No one asked the trial judge, Mr Justice Henry, to look behind the certificate, as is now the accepted practice. The hearing continues today.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.19	2.08
Austria Sch	16.78	15.29
Belgium Fr	46.07	44.7
Canada \$	2.212	2.082
Denmark Kr	0.761	0.688
Finland Mk	5.30	5.20
France Fr	7.35	7.17
Germany DM	1.22	1.19
Greece Dr	382.00	367.00
Hong Kong \$	12.81	11.81
Italy Lit	1.02	0.95
Japan Yen	162.00	158.00
Netherlands Gld	2.82	2.48
New Zealand \$	2.54	2.32
Norway Kr	10.44	9.64
Portugal Esc	246.50	223.00
S Africa Rd	7.00	5.42
Spain Ptas	200.00	187.00
Sweden Kr	11.58	10.78
Switzerland Fr	1.92	1.77
Turkey Lira	1.75	1.52
USA \$	1.671	1.541

Prices for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates up at close of trading yesterday.

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□ Shake-up at the top for GrandMet □ Signet rebels throw down the gauntlet □ Censure but no action from Singapore

Burger King's takeaway

GRAND METROPOLITAN is now an American corporation in all but name, so it is appropriate that it should share with corporate America a distinctly un-British generosity towards its executives. Salaries are high — unless you have the misfortune to work for Burger King in Glasgow — and pay-offs for loss of office are higher.

The latest to benefit is David Nash, who joined six years ago as finance director and is walking away with almost £1 million after he lost out in the race for the chief executive's job. This was a straight re-run of the jousting for succession won a little more than two years ago by George Bull, now chairman-designate, which led to the equally remunerative departure of Ian Martin.

Mr Nash's job was done away with as part of a corporate restructuring, that emphasised the role of the chief executive and the head office at the expense of the management fieldhorses just below him. Allied Domecq, one of GrandMet's biggest rivals in branded drinks, carried out a similar exercise earlier this year after the ousting of David Jarvis, former head of the Hiram Walker spirits and drinks side.

In any conglomerate like GrandMet, all businesses are core businesses but some are less core than others, only awaiting the right buyer at the right price.

Pearle, the eye products retailer, is a long way out on a limb and should by rights have been sold by now. What is intriguing about the latest moves — against a backdrop of market rumours about an imminent break-up bid, with Mr Martin and his new employer, the buyout specialist Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, being tipped to lead it — is where they leave Burger King.

Under the old regime, this, Pillsbury and the European food business came within Mr Nash's empire. Under the new arrangements, European foods goes into Pillsbury. Burger King is now free-standing, further away from the core — and more easily saleable, just so long as the putative bidder does not preempt the GrandMet management by making its move first.

Ringing the changes at Signet

THERE IS a large gap between active shareholding and destructive arbitrage, and an even bigger step to the American practice of greenmail, or parking

oneself on someone's shareholder list and demanding special privileges to go away.

The posse of investors making a nuisance of themselves at Signet, Gerald Ratner's nemesis, have yet to make their intentions clear beyond a vague desire to raise standards of corporate governance. But they have been forced to declare more of their hand in a filing last week in the US, and it looks more like an outright declaration of war.

It is hard to reconcile a wish to help the Signet board with the intention of removing some or all of them from office. The response from James McAdam, the Signet chairman, emphasises the need to treat equally all classes of shareholders — and his company now has nine, the ordinary holders, and eight different brands of preference holders.

Signet is heading for one of those tortuous financial restructurings that is made all the more difficult because those different classes each have their own interests to defend.

The rebel shareholders, with 22 per cent of the votes, can easily block any restructuring that does

PENNINGTON



not meet with their approval, but their room for manoeuvre is limited beyond that. If Signet continues in its current form, dividends will never be paid on any of the shares. The only alternative is a break-up, as urged by the rebels in the past.

But the mathematics of this are not promising for anyone. If the UK side is worth £250 million and Sterling in the US another £300 million maximum, this total is just £80 million more than the combined bank debt and preference dividend arrears, which would have to be paid before distribution to any class of investors. The owners of a large chunk of any public company have one clear option if they feel they can do the job better than

the management, which is to make a full offer for the rest. But the rebels have pledged not to do this; their US filing does not envisage their voting rights going beyond 29.9 per cent. Their only other option is to compromise with the management and allow a successful refinancing on terms agreeable to all.

Grinning and Baring it

THE Singapore Government's inquiry into Barings may have confirmed most of the suspicions in London and the Far East about the former management, but the resulting report is unlikely to do much to further the interests of those who lost money when the bank collapsed.

Accusations of incompetence and an ostrich-like unwillingness to face the facts until too late will not come as much of a surprise to those who worked with Barings in its heyday. But they fall short of providing evidence of criminal wrongdoing of the sort that has been built up against Nick Leeson.

The Barings management at the time knew no more of the arcane world of derivatives trading than the average high-ranking bank executive did — or still does, for that matter, despite the subsequent publicity, the Bankers Trust affair and other warning signs. The open question remains to what extent requests for extra cash coming down the line from the Far East should have rung alarm bells in London.

The Bank of England says nothing in Singapore's report cuts against the conclusions drawn by the Board of Banking Supervision in July, of a complete lack of internal controls.

The Bank is maintaining a lofty silence in the face of accusations from Singapore that its officials failed to respond to its investigators' inquiries. The Singapore inquiry, if it has any bearing on events in London, might merely serve to support any legal action that bondholders and others who lost money in the collapse may decide to bring against the old management.

As far as Singapore is concerned, Barings in London should have guessed something

was amiss, and the failure to do so was as culpable as a deliberate cover-up. The inquiry goes further, alleging attempts to hinder those looking into the resulting collapse. But none of this, the former Barings executives will be glad to hear, is sufficient to ground criminal proceedings in London. They will not be extradited to Singapore, and they are unlikely to go there voluntarily.

Only one man will not be sharing in the general sense of relief. James Bax, Mr Leeson's local supervisor in Singapore, is still out there, his passport confiscated. The Singaporean authorities, now virtually certain of providing hospitality for Mr Leeson in the fullness of time, probably have no interest in trying his former bosses as well. At least, Mr Bax must hope not.

Uneasy bond

AMERICA'S Federal Reserve has been eyeing the cracks in the Japanese banking edifice and worrying about the risk to its own foundations. The dollars-for-bonds deal is designed to insure both against a collapse, but it is hard to say who is most put out — the Americans, forced to shore up their biggest economic competitor, or the Japanese, coming cap-in-hand to the gaijin for financial help.

WestLB to expand in London

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

WEST Merchant Bank, the London-based merchant banking subsidiary of Westdeutsche Landesbank (WestLB), is to recruit up to 300 people over the next two to three years, building up a City-based investment banking operation to take on its German and US rivals.

The move follows the decision of Deutsche Bank to base its investment banking arm in London, under the name Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. Dresdner Bank's acquisition of Kleinwort Benson during the summer and SBC's acquisition of SG Warburg.

The build-up will start after WestLB takes 100 per cent control of West Merchant Bank by buying a 25 per cent stake from Sidwest LB at the end of this year.

Patrick Macdougall, chairman and chief executive of West Merchant Bank, said it also follows competition from US giants such as Goldman Sachs in the German bank's core market. He said the US banks had been taking market share from their German rivals.

West Merchant Bank employs 400 people. Mr Macdougall said the bulk of the recruitment — up to 200 people — would be in developing an equity origination and distribution business. He added that the bank would also

expand its existing businesses, including the recruitment of 60 derivatives and swaps staff and expanding its bond team by between 20 and 30 people.

West Merchant Bank used to be Standard Chartered Merchant Bank. WestLB took a 50 per cent stake in 1989 when it bought Standard Chartered's European branches. The bank then became Chartered WestLB. Standard Chartered pulled out altogether with a sale in December 1992 after plans for a closer working relationship between Standard Chartered and WestLB in Asia came to nothing.

Hans Henning Offen, chairman of the West Merchant Bank holding company, its supervisory board, said the German bank plans to invest 100 million marks expanding the investment bank. He said it is likely that the expanded investment banking operation will need to move to larger offices in two to three years.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, which has to date poached more than 50 people from rival SBC Warburg, has now lost a team of 11 derivatives staff to West Merchant Bank, including Timothy Ball and Patrick Trozzo, who will be based in New York. Last month, West Merchant Bank hired 10 London-based swaps experts from Deutsche.

NatWest takes over Gleacher

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATWEST Markets is to make the five principal partners of Gleacher & Co, the US mergers and acquisitions boutique, multimillionaires with a \$135 million acquisition.

Gleacher, founded in 1990 by Eric Gleacher and James Goodwin, formerly of Morgan Stanley, was ranked fourteenth in US mergers and acquisitions last year and tenth in acquisitions involving American targets.

Mr Gleacher is understood to be the biggest beneficiary, though he refused to comment, saying it was a private matter. NatWest is issuing 13.7 million new shares to pay for the deal.

The five principal partners and other key staff will be locked into the company with contractual arrangements that will enable NatWest to claw back shares if they leave early.

Mr Gleacher will become chairman of NatWest Markets North America.

IBM loses in third quarter

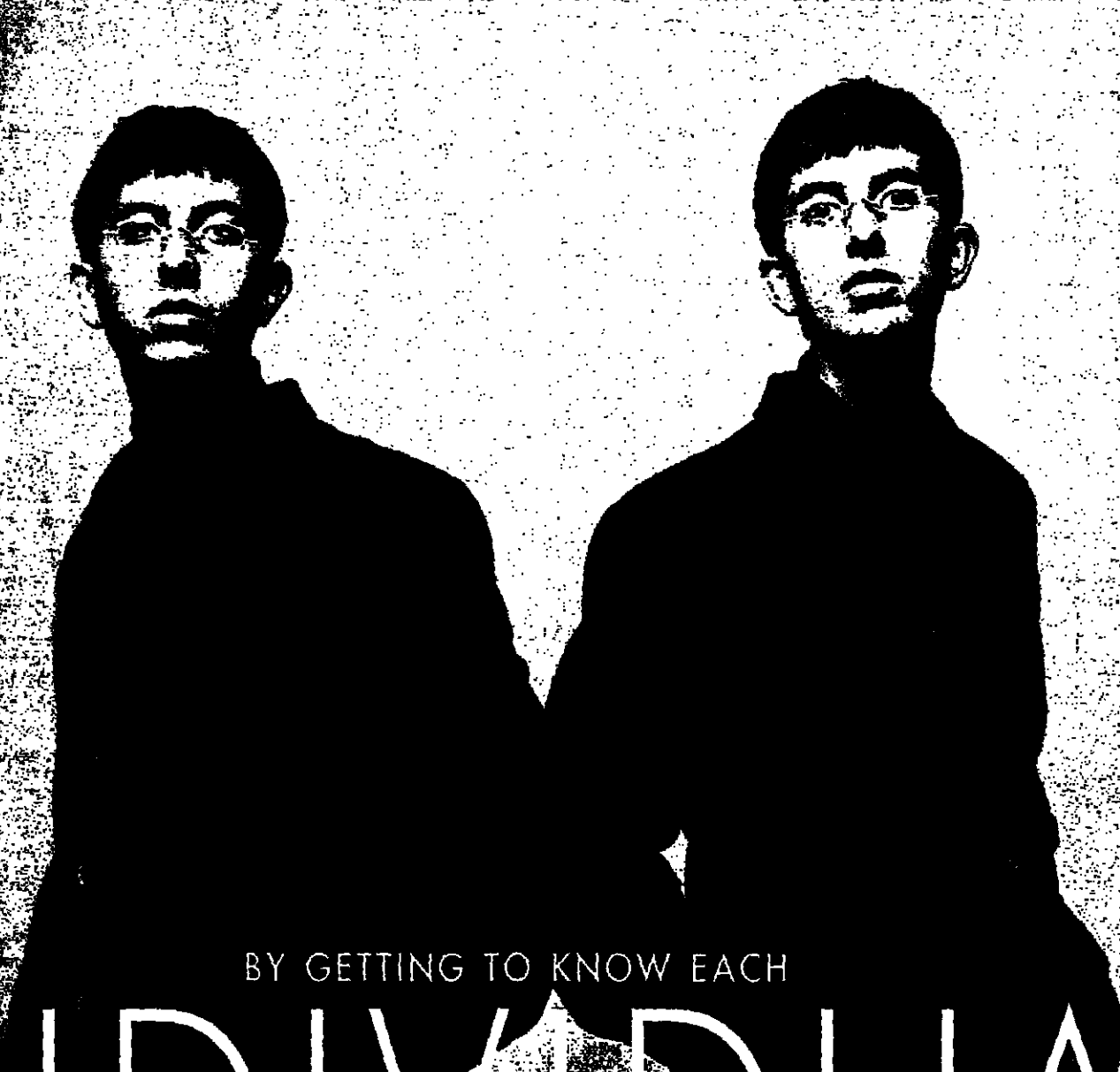
FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

IBM sent a shiver through the New York stock market when it reported a loss during the third quarter of \$543 million after its purchase of Lotus Development Corp, the software company.

The shortfall was the result of a \$1.8 billion charge against the Lotus purchase. However, even before the takeover charge, IBM's profit of \$1.3 billion was still well below market expectations, confirming analysts' fears that the company's recovery is altering.

IBM also plans an additional \$900 million against a further round of cost-cutting in the final quarter. The company's shares fell two cents to \$92 on the poor results.

The latest results will do nothing to reassure the stock market about prospects at IBM, whose shares have fallen back from a high of \$110 since the summer.



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STOCK MARKET

PHILIP PANGALOS

Mood swings spurred by bank speculators

THE London market had little to show after another roller-coaster session again dominated by takeover speculation, with fresh highs coming within its grasp before evaporating before the close.

A renewed burst of takeover speculation combined with PSBR figures at the lower end of City estimates to help to drive share prices back towards new peaks in early trade.

The FT-SE 100 reached 3,580, but came off the boil late in the day after a negative start on Wall Street, which was hit by lower-than-expected third quarter earnings from IBM.

This dampened sentiment in London and the FT-SE 100 index closed up 4.9 at 3,562.2. Volume saw 659 million shares traded.

Royal Bank of Scotland was at centre stage once again as its shares advanced to 54p, before slipping back to close 9p higher at 534p, on volume of 6.9 million shares.

The latest rise was fuelled as SBC Warburg told an internal meeting it valued RBS at up to £6 billion, putting a break-up price of up to 750p a share on the bank in the event of a takeover bid.

SBC sees the most likely predator as HSBC, which already owns Midland Bank, largely due to its financial strength and a perceived good fit between Midland and RBS. HSBC formed 3p to 95p.

Speculation has also focused on BAT Industries, 1p firmer at 530p, NatWest, up 4p to 644p, and Abbey National, down 6p at 57p. However, Banco Santander dampened some of the speculation after it said that rumours it was to sell its 9.39 per cent stake in RBS to a predator were totally false.

Elsewhere, Grand Metropolitan, which saw further heavy activity in the traded options market, eased 6p to 451p, on volume of 10.4 million shares. GrandMet announced a string of management changes yesterday, including the appointment of John McGee as the group's new chief executive and the departure of David Nash as its food chief. Rumours of a bid or possible large disposal persist.

United Biscuits, another bid favourite, rose to 294p before ending up 2p at 286p, on volume of 3.1 million shares, on revised speculation of a bid from Cadbury-Schweppes, down 10p at 529p.



Aran Energy shares rose 3p on a counter-bid by Statoil

or Keebler of the US.

Thorn EMI climbed to £15.68, before ending 10p higher at £15.37 amid reports that a bid may emerge for the group's EMI music division, to be demerged early next year. Those mentioned by analysts as possible bidders include News Corporation, Viacom, Walt Disney, Seagram, and DreamWorks.

City talk suggests keeping an eye on Sema Group, the Anglo-French information systems group, up 3p at 498p. Sema is in advanced talks with CEA-Industrie of France over the purchase of its Cisi systems integration and outsourcing subsidiary. Analysts say a deal would make good strategic sense.

However, Trafalgar House remained in the doldrums as the shares continued to drift to new lows, sliding another 3p to 23p, with analysts questioning how long Hong Kong Land will continue to support the group.

British Gas advanced 11p to 254p on heavy volume of 29.8 million shares, as brokers turned positive on the stock following Monday's surprise

boardroom shake-up.

Thorn EMI also did well, climbing 13p to 562p, on hopes that its bid for Midlands Electricity, up 4p to 986p, will escape a Monopoly referral.

Elsewhere, shares in Aran Energy rose 3p to 784p, on volume of 16.4 million shares, after Statoil, Norway's state oil company, launched a £198 million (£203 million) offer for

Arco, topping the £197 million hostile offer from Atlantic Richfield Corp (Arco) for the Irish oil explorer. Aran welcomed the alternative bid, which is worth 176p a share, but told investors to sit tight pending further moves.

Prudential, Britain's largest insurer, firmed 2p to 383p in spite of Credit Lyonnais Laing advising a switch out of the Pru and into Commercial

Union, 7p stronger at 598p. Shares in Microvitec surged 9p to 52p after the computer systems and services group signed an agreement to supply Amiga with custom monitors for its new 1200 computer in a deal that will be worth up to £20 million a year in 1996. The deal is Microvitec's largest ever order from a single customer. Microvitec will also supply Amiga with 15,000 monitors.

British Steel climbed to 176p before ending 2p firmer at 173p, boosted by US talk that there may be a pick-up in demand for high grade steel, especially for use in cars and appliances.

Among dull drink shares, Scottish and Newcastle fell 15p to 591p, unsettled after BZW reiterated its sell stance on the stock in its internal meeting, while concerns about possible downward pressure on beer prices saw Bass dip 9p to 664p and Whitbread 7p to 629p.

Biocompatibles International advanced 16p to 320p after a further 14.8 per cent of the research and medical devices company's equity, or 68 million shares, was placed with a range of institutions at 300p a share.

The group, which manufactures a range of proprietary polymers, joined the stock market in April when it issued 10.3 million shares at 170p each. GILT-EDGED: Gilts had an uninspiring day awaiting the details of the latest gilt auction, due to take place on October 25. The Bank of England will auction £3 billion of Treasury 8 per cent 2015A. The size and maturity were in line with expectations.

Gilts had opened higher, with a boost from international bond markets and no harm from the PSBR figures. However, prices drifted lower in afternoon trading, along with wider US bond markets. The December long gilt future touched a high of £1057 1/2 before closing four ticks lower at £1057 1/2, on volume of 38 contracts traded. Among conventional stocks, losses stretched to £4 among long-dated issues, while index-linked gained up to £4.

NEW YORK: Weakness in multinational shares as IBM, Caterpillar and Boeing saw shares on Wall Street easier. By midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 6.14 points lower at 4,778.24.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4778.24 (-6.14)
S&P Composite	582.80 (-0.23)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	17916.60 (-99.84)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10032.93 (-23.65)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	456.57 (-1.58)
Sydney:	
ASX	2108.5 (-1.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2201.05 (-9.59)
Singapore:	
SEAC	2097.38 (-12.42)
Brussels:	
General	2768.09 (-6.04)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1779.74 (-10.75)
Zurich:	
SIX	696.00 (-2.20)
London:	
FT 30	3620.3 (+5.9)
FT 100	3582.2 (+4.9)
FTSE Mid 250	1938.1 (+1.1)
FTSE-A 350	1773.0 (+1.7)
FTSE-Eurotrack 100	1406.73 (-1.8)
FT A All-Share	1751.32 (+1.58)
FT Non Financials	1889.94 (+1.0)
FT Fixed Interest	111.16 (-0.11)
FT Govt Securities	92.82 (-0.11)
SEAC Volume	58.7m
USM (Datastream)	181.50 (-0.27)
US\$	1.5738 (-0.0022)
German Mark	2.2258 (-0.0008)
Exchange Index	54.2 (-0.1)
Bank of England official cash rate (4 1/2%)	1.942
ESCU	1.6363
S&P 500	582.80
RPI	150.5 Sep (3.9%) Jan 1997=100
RPIX	149.2 Sep (3.1%) Jan 1997=100

RECENT ISSUES

Cons Coal (50)	68	-	1
Euro Sales Fin	130	+	5
German Star Wks	18	+	1
Hay & Robertson	39	+	1
MultiMedia (45)	60		
Murray Vei	105		
Omnicare	86	-	1
Pemberton	60		
Pictet British (100)	102		
Preston Nth (400)	400		
SCS Sys Sols (125)	121	-	2
Univ Sal (149)	183		
Union & Shm Wts	183		

RIGHTS ISSUES

Alumasc n/p (320)	114
Anglo-East n/p (105)	11
Bath n/p (16)	2
Fort Ports n/p (400)	73
RMC n/p (950)	128

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Border TV	218p (+11p)
British Gas	254p (+11p)
Alba	254p (+11p)
Doddling Kind	524p (+20p)
Norah	483p (+16p)
Takeda Chem	915p (+29p)
Microvitec	52p (+9p)
Castings	183p (+8p)
ADT	820p (+22p)
CSA	105p (+10p)
Greenland	505p (+10p)
Seab	730p (+10p)
Eurotherm	540p (+10p)
Britannic	675p (+12p)
GKN	783p (+11p)
FALLS:	
Schell	219p (-7p)
Dalepark	137p (-7p)
Stanley Leisure	362p (-10p)
Sect & Newcastle	581p (-16p)
Enterprise	348p (-6p)
Cadbury-Schw	629p (-10p)
Elsevier	784p (-14p)
A Cohen	685p (-10p)
Bass	684p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 34

TEMPUS

Blood in the bank

MOST people agree that there are too many banks in the high street. The logical consequence of that is consolidation. The Royal Bank of Scotland is the latest to be tipped for takeover, with companies as diverse as HSBC, Abbey National and BAT included in the frame as bidders. In response, Royal Bank shares have gained 161p over the last month to yesterday's high of 548p, but some analysts believe the bank could fetch a price as high as 650p. Royal Bank is now valued at about 2.2 times its book value and some analysts believe a bid could send its value closer to three times net worth.

This sort of premium is not unusual, given the hefty prices being paid in the US for retail banks and the recent offer for TSB by Lloyds Bank. Yet it is unprecedented from a longer-term perspective and has worrying implications.

The market is beginning to value banks on an earnings, rather than an asset base, a move that coincides with the huge increase in their profitability — Royal Bank earned a 36 per cent return on its equity last year.

Such performance cannot be maintained for long. The banks are generating capital faster than the growth in the supply of money. In a market where supply is growing faster than demand, the banks can choose one of three routes: cut their margins in a drive for growth, give capital back to shareholders, or make acquisitions.

The last recession taught banks to avoid the first option and Barclays has opted for the second. But the third option assumes that savings will justify the price — and at these valuations that implies a lot more blood on the high street.

Stakis

GROUSING about the National Lottery has become a knee-jerk reaction by anyone in the gaming business when faced with a sales setback. Stakis yesterday hinted heavily about the adverse market conditions in casinos when it reported a decline of 1.7 per cent in the cash drop on a like-for-like basis.

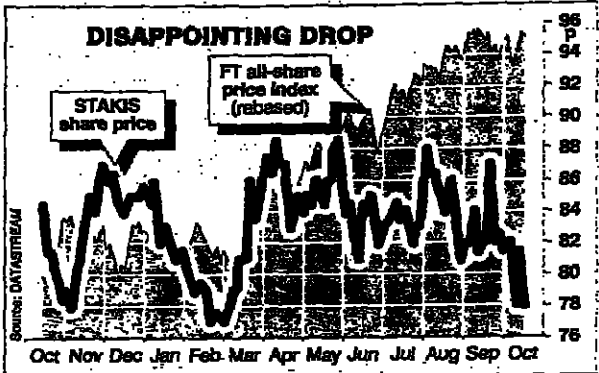
In fact, Stakis admits that much of the decline can be attributed to the hot summer which for some reason dissuades the punters from hanging about in smoke-filled rooms losing their money. There are no accurate estimates of the effect of the lottery on casinos but even at the lower end of the Stakis chain, gamblers are spending well over £100 per head, amounts which are unlikely to be seriously affected by the lottery.

Stakis

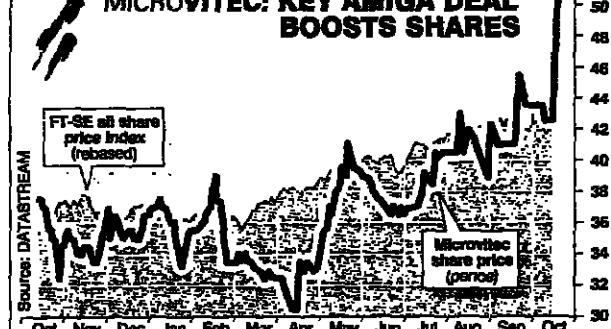
If gamblers are feeling glum, the traditional British sales rep is chipping with a bit more of his cash finding its way into the tills of provincial hotels. Average room rates at Stakis hotels are up 5.5 per cent in the year to date. At the same time, rooms are filling up with third-quarter occupancy nearing 80 per cent, a level

Stakis

that ought to permit Stakis to increase rates further. The good news for Stakis is that a trend that began in London is spreading across the country, but rates in real terms are still well below their peak in the late 1980s. Stakis shares are beginning to look cheap and the company has the balance sheet to pick up a few more hotels.



MICROVITEC: KEY AMIGA DEAL BOOSTS SHARES



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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Kick-off for Jack Rowell

JACK ROWELL, England's doughty rugby union manager, will discard his customary tracksuit and whistle to squeeze into a business suit tomorrow when he will be named as chairman of a new management consultancy.

Rowell will be joined at the Le Meridien hotel in Piccadilly by three former partners of KPMG, who defected in May to set up their own company, OSI Group Holdings.

With some £12 million behind them, raised from the ECI Ventures group and a number of banks, Richard Price, Roger Hornby and William Marshall hope to mount a challenge to the Big Six accountancy firms.

Best known for his achievements in rugby, particularly as manager of Bath and, since May 1994, as the England manager, Rowell also has an impressive business pedigree. He has an MA from Oxford University in philosophy, politics and economics and qualified as a chartered accountant. He first joined Procter & Gamble and went on to become chief executive of Golden Wonder and earn a seat on the board of Dalgety.



Rowell: agency post

Free lunch

THE storm of opposition to tolls on the new Skye Bridge reminded amateur historian Simon Morris, a partner with Cameron Mackay Hewitt, the City law firm, of an historical precedent south of the border. When Southwark Bridge, built privately in London, opened in 1819, locals refused to pay the penny toll. Unlike the Scots, however, they already had the choice of two free bridges — London Bridge and Blackfriars, which both remained heavily congested. Mr Morris says: "Workmen's wives used to walk up to the toll booth on the bridge and hand their husbands' lunch across the gate to avoid paying the extra charge."

Sting in the tale

THE Institute of Chartered Accountants' continued poster campaign advising people to use qualified accountants rather than "cowboy" advisers hits the streets tomorrow on 366 sites nationwide. The messages intended to clarify the difference between the two are "nothing ventured, everything gained" if you use a chartered accountant, followed by "beware false profits". Neither would have prevented Sting being stung by his chartered accountant, who got six years for a £6 million fraud.

Trash trading

THEY say a good dealer can trade anything, so it should be no surprise that the Chicago Board of Trade, the world's largest futures and options exchange, has started trading in rubbish. Now you can speculate in used paper, glass and plastic. One problem, however, is one seems to sure how to price garbage. Not long ago, paper rubbish was selling at \$235 per tonne but is now worth about \$80. Safer, perhaps, to stick to pork bellies.

Naming names over the collapse of Barings

Robert Miller
reports on
Singapore's
inquiry into
the debacle

A report by Singapore inspectors into the \$860 million collapse of Barings published yesterday has gone even further in naming names and laying blame than the Bank of England equivalent published in July.

That Barings crashed because of the massive debts clocked up by the trading of Nick Leeson, 28, on the Far East's derivatives market seems beyond dispute. The key question therefore — that has exercised the investigators, first from Britain's Board of Banking Supervision (BoBS), and now the report of Barings Futures (Singapore) by Michael Lim and Nicky Tan, the Price Waterhouse inspectors appointed by Singapore's Ministry of Finance has been "what did London know about it?" Quite a lot apparently.

The Board of Banking Supervision concluded that Barings failed because of the activities of one rogue trader. In its defence, and it should be remembered that the BoBS investigators did not have access to much of the material available to the Singapore inspectors, the UK report also said that the Barings command structure was "plainly inadequate".

The BoBS report said that Ron Baker, recruited in April 1992 to set up the Debt Financial Products Group, failed to check properly on the trading activities of Barings Futures (Singapore). Further, he did nothing to take "vigorous" enough steps to curb Mr Leeson's exposure to the derivatives markets in Japan and Singapore. Peter Norris, the chief executive officer, who also features heavily in the Singapore report, was severely criticised for failing to introduce tighter controls over the Singapore office.

James Bax, regional manager of Barings's South East Asia operations in Singapore, once considered one of the few personnel to have "voiced concerns about the paucity of checks and balances between the front and back offices in Singapore, was also criticised in the BoBS report. He is currently resident in Singapore at the request of the authorities and has surrendered his passport.

But Singapore has gone even further. It hands out bricks to Mr Leeson's superiors on the ground in Singapore and in London. The inspectors say, for example: "Mr Leeson's product managers accepted the reports of his considerable profitability with admiration rather than scepticism. Had senior managers in Barings Securities Limited in London queried the funding lines being passed to Barings Futures in Singapore and asked for the incomings and outgoings to be reconciled, Mr Leeson could not have taken any activity unknown to or unauthorised by the other Barings Group companies." As such a reconciliation was not undertaken, say the Singapore inspectors, "the question arises why not, since this meant that very large sums of money were reutilised to Barings Futures (Singapore) without requiring BFS to justify its requests for funds."

One of the most damning passages in the report shows how even when Barings's management should have been alerted by an internal audit report that they chose to ignore it. The inspectors say: "In the third quarter of 1994, BFS was internally audited. The internal auditors had done good preparatory work before starting the audit. They had identified as one key issue to be examined further in Singapore the fact that Mr Leeson occupied a very powerful position controlling both the front and back office of Barings Futures (Singapore). He was both chief trader and head of settlements and



Peter Norris is criticised for failing to introduce tighter controls

was thus in a position to record the trades that he himself had executed in any way he wished."

The investigators continue: "The internal audit report, issued in the last quarter of 1994, specifically highlighted this fact as creating a significant risk that internal controls could be overridden. Nothing was done to remedy this. The internal audit report noted that insofar as Mr Leeson's trades were almost all executed for other Barings Group entities, these trades would be subject to reconciliation controls, which would mitigate the extent of any irregularities that might arise from this situation. In fact, no such reconciliation controls existed." The italics are

those of the authors and underline the consistent theme running through their investigation and their report.

Forget the hidden Error Account 88888 of which so much has been made, including by Mr Leeson in his BBC interview with Sir David Frost. Forget that at the very end in January and February this year that money, which was literally Barings' lifeblood, was flowing out of London to Singapore.

What the inspectors say was that useful though the internal audit report was to focus on an issue — that of control of Leeson in either back or front office — "it had not in fact uncovered new ground. The Barings Group had known from the outset that Mr Leeson

had a dual role as head of the front and back offices. The internal audit report served primarily to refocus on this point. However, the Barings Group continued to act recklessly.

Even after the internal audit report, and despite the reconciliation difficulties persisting for well over eight months, senior managers of the Barings Group did not take firm action to address the problem. Instead, they remitted even more funds to BFS."

At the same time that the internal audit was being prepared, Barings' Group Treasury proposed that a person be designated the Asian regional treasurer and that this person be posted to Singapore or Hong Kong. One of the key areas of responsibility would be "the co-ordinating and resolving of all problems relating to funding in the region and supervising major cash flows in the region, especially the funds remitted to Barings Futures (Singapore)". This suggestion, note the inspectors, was resisted on cost grounds by Peter Norris, chief executive officer of Barings.

Turning to individuals who may have had, or indeed even should have had, some degree of control over BFS, the Singapore report spares no blushes. It says that Mr Norris failed to sack Mr Leeson for breaking rules on his authorised trading levels and "instead Mr Leeson was to receive a sizeable bonus for 1994". This was to be worth \$50,000, compared with a 1993 bonus of £15,000. The inspectors note that Mr Norris failed to investigate whether Mr Leeson had undertaken any other unauthorised transactions and allowed him to increase the size of his positions.

The report says: "In concealing the problem, Mr Norris was assisted by Mr Bax, who tried to divert investigations by the external auditors and Mr (Tony) Hawes, the group treasurer, into the alleged transaction in Singapore... Both Mr Norris and Mr Bax have denied being involved in any plan either to underplay the significance of the discrepancy or to discourage independent investigations into the matter. However, we are unable to accept their denials."

On Norris, the inspectors say: "When the testimony of the other witnesses was put to Mr Norris, he denied the substance of their testimony and argued that no motive could be advanced to explain why he acted in the way which had been suggested to him. A plausible motive can be readily conjectured. Mr Norris had assumed leadership of the Barings Group after his predecessor had left BSL when it occurred losses of £11 million. In those circumstances, Mr Norris clearly had an interest in concealing the much larger losses that the Barings Group had incurred via account 88888 in the course of the three years that Mr Leeson had been in Singapore."

However, damning the Singapore report on various individuals may seem, a leading City fraud expert observed last night: "This is all part of a carefully planned strategy on the part of the Singapore authorities. In some ways, it is to appease public opinion that Nick Leeson is the fall-guy in this whole sorry saga and that he faces years in prison if convicted after being deported from Germany. But the real issue is between negligence and criminality. It seems that the worst thing that Norris and Bax really stand accused of is making the best of a bad job and putting a gloss on it. There has never been any suggestion that they were physically involved in fraud in any way. Similarly, I don't expect the position of the Serious Fraud Office will change and charges will not be brought against individuals based in London."

If that theory is correct, then the only action against the Barings's managers involved in the supervision of Leeson could be through the Securities and Futures Authority. A dozen former senior managers at Barings are under active investigation by the SFA. If found guilty, they could be banned from the securities industry for life. That might be some small consolation to the investors in Barings's bonds and preference shares. They, after all, lost more than £100 million in the crash.



James Bax, left, who has surrendered his passport, and Ron Baker



Tokyo gives five times as much to US monetary growth as Fed

Japan refloats the US consumer

Imagine you are running the depressed Japanese economy. You have tried fiscal packages (disappointing); you have devalued, but profit margins are still too tight. What next? Inflate demand in your biggest export market? Good idea; but the textbooks offer no guidance on how to do it. All the same, the Bank of Japan may have stumbled on a method. It could prove risky, but so far it seems to work.

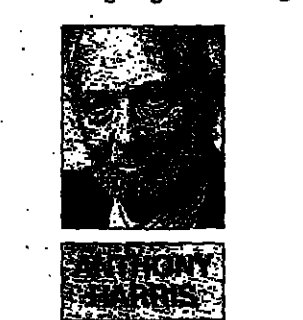
This may explain why the forecasters seem to be at sea again. On this side of the Atlantic, job insecurity, combined with a Maastricht-inspired squeeze, has depressed consumer spending in nearly all EC countries, and the forecasts may be too rosy. But in the US the likely error is the other way. It is already clear that the widely forecast mini-recession (forecast here too, unhappily) is off, and now it seems that even the "soft landing" may not happen. Recent spending figures, led by investment, but with strong retail sales too, suggest growth of 3.5 or even 4 per cent. This is

far above the subdued 2.25 which the Fed was aiming for, and could even mean overheating. A symptom: the US trade deficit, forecast to improve sharply, appears stuck at a huge \$180 billion a year.

None of this can be happening. On the face of it, Personal income growth is still sluggish. Fiscal policy is being further tightened by the Gingrich vigilantes. And monetary policy, measured by the usual yardsticks, is very tight. The monetary base (fundamental to Chicago monetarists) has been growing at a rate of barely over 2 per cent, and M1 has actually been shrinking. Yet the broad measures of money, the counterpart of bank credit growth, are now growing at 7 per cent (M2) and 9 per cent (M3). And despite these boom lending numbers, there is every sign of a money glut. Competition to lend still more has squeezed banking spreads very thin; thus Columbia, hardly the most solid of Latin American sovereign risks, recently raised \$200 million in New York at only 125 basis points over the cost of

wholesale deposits — a ten-year low. (It could have been \$365 million on these unwarranted terms, according to *Graham's*, my dollar credit bible.)

Something is missing from the sums, and that something is plain in the US Treasury borrowing figures. Foreign



central bank holdings of Treasuries rose by over \$87 billion in the year to October 4 — and for "foreign" you can fairly safely read "Japanese". These purchases are a straight cash injection into Wall Street: so the Bank of Japan and its allies — mainly Asian — have contributed five times as much to US monetary growth as has

the Fed itself. And that is only the beginning. Pumping money into a market drives up prices: so the monetary effects are dwarfed by wealth effects. The impact on the wealth of America's small investors since January is estimated by David Hale of Kemper's at a round trillion dollars — ten times the monetary injection, and nearly \$5,000 per American (including babies).

What is the demand effect of this paper wealth? Hale cites equations which suggest an added 0.5 per cent of spending, but that may be much too modest. Finance company lending to US consumers is up 15.3 per cent in the past year, or about five times the rate of growth of incomes, which argues buoyant confidence.

The result of a modest fall in unemployment? More likely, surely, the result of unrealised investment gains. And since higher spending boosts company profits, the rise in stock values is partly self-justifying. These are side-effects of what is basically an exchange-rate operation — a rescue for the Japanese banks and its

stock market — so it is ironic that they seem so much more powerful in the US than in Japan itself. Even the trade effects (that sustained US deficit) will probably give more direct help to Latin America and the Asian tigers than to Japan. Japanese companies will feel the main benefits in their overseas subsidiaries: later, in rising orders for capital equipment. It is a slow way to bail out an economy.

And why, you may be wondering, is Europe not sharing America's benefits? Basically, because a deflation which works through the stock market goes first to the preferred foreign home for Japanese institutional funds, which is the US.

No gloss from the CSO boss

Philip Bassett on producing
jobless figures we can believe

Today at precisely 9.30am, officials at the Government's Central Statistical Office will release details of the latest unemployment figures.

What they will not do is distribute the response to them from Eric Forth, the Education and Employment Minister. The divide between the statistical and the political could not be clearer.

To the irritation of ministers, the CSO has, since the abolition of the Department of Employment in the summer and the handing over to the CSO of responsibility for unemployment and other labour-market figures, steadfastly and successfully refused to put out ministerial glosses on what the figures mean in terms of government economic policy.

"It's a fine line," acknowledges Tim Holt, since July director of the CSO and head of the Government Statistical Service, "but it's fairly clear. Our responsibility is to present in an objective and politically neutral way as possible the latest picture of the labour market, and to draw attention to any significant changes. The interpretation of whether or not those changes represent a need for any change in, or vindication of, Government labour-market policy is a matter for the Department of Education and Employment."

Dr Holt welcomes the de-politicisation of the figures which the move to the CSO had helped to engender — and that's why too he thinks it is by itself insufficient. "I don't believe that the lack of public confidence in the unemployment figures will actually be removed simply by transferring responsibility from the old Employment Department to CSO. It's more integrally tied up with the way those figures are compiled. My view is that we need to look seriously at the possibility of producing a monthly-based figure which is on an ILO [International Labour Organisation] definition, so that people can see a time series of figures, which is more likely to command public confidence because it is based on an international standard."

Regaining public confidence in such a key set of economic data is a priority for Dr Holt. He is acutely aware that mere mention of the unemployment figures, or such notions as seasonal adjustment, is a prompt for ribald laughter, and he knows he has to achieve the objective of the Government's jobless figures being taken seriously again: not by insiders who use them and understand their strengths and drawbacks, but by the public — which tends to see them as fiddled.

He is aware that mention of unemployment figures is a prompt for ribald laughter

Dr Steel's study is expected to produce its report for Dr Holt by the new year, but it is already clear that it will in all probability recommend, as did the Royal Society of Statisticians' report, the introduction of a monthly LFS measure of unemployment, based on the ILO method of counting the number of people out of work.

Though ministers insisted in reply to the RSS report that such a move would be too costly to implement, the force of a CSO inquiry would be hard to resist, even with the politically embarrassing price to pay on it of reversing the Government's repeated rejections of the criticism of the current claimant count monthly figures from Labour and independent job analysts.

From next April, the CSO merges with the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys to form the Office for National Statistics. "How we handle the unemployment figures is the biggest challenge which the new organisation faces," Dr Holt says, "and it will affect the public's perception of our ability to provide a range of official statistics for the economy and society."

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FOCUS

RELOCATION

Introducing a report on relocation, David Crawford looks at what attracts a business to an area

For today's global business decision-makers, national — and even continental — boundaries and loyalties are increasingly irrelevant. An expanding German company will compare the UK to the Far East on costs of labour and technology transfer; while for a US concern locating in Europe, shared language is just one factor.

As John Cox, the newly appointed chief executive of the London First Centre (LFC), says: "Even companies which originated in the United Kingdom now see themselves as true multinationals with no strong domestic ties. They are looking for locations with the capacity to demonstrate competitive advantages."

Promoting Britain's competitive case globally is the task of the Invest in Britain Bureau (IBB), which claims a 1994 record of 434 inward investments worth £131 billion from 30 countries. Foreign-owned companies, says the IBB, provide 32 per cent of UK manufacturing investment and 18 per cent of manufacturing jobs.

A branch of the Department of Trade and Industry, the IBB uses UK diplomatic posts as its antennae and points potential investors to suitable locations, depending on factors including land and labour availability, communications and financial assistance. At home it works with regional development agencies and organisations, such as English Partnerships and the Commission for the New Towns.

English Partnerships completed its first year as a unified government-sponsored urban regeneration agency in March. Charged to release the development potential of 150,000 acres of derelict land, it has pulled off a spectacular hat-trick of inward investments on brown-field sites.

EP played a key role, against fierce competition, in bringing the European manufacturing centre of the Korean conglomerate, Samsung, to the Wynyard Estate in Cleveland, where the first plant opened earlier this month. It has wooed Siemens' wafer fabrication plant to the Hadrian Business Park on Tyneside, and has secured Ford's £400 million Jaguar X200 production plant for the UK with an investment programme focused on Jaguar's surplus property portfolio in the West Midlands.

Also vigorously chasing inward investment is the Commission for



The European headquarters of Enta Technologies at Telford, an investment chased by the Commission for the New Towns

Where the movers and the shakers end up

the New Towns (CNT), which has 17,000 acres of land and 7 million sq ft of buildings to market, mostly in the Midlands and the North of England. Ironically, the CNT — formed to dispose of the remaining property assets of the 21 English new towns as these wind up — faces a 1998 close-down under present government thinking.

While the Department of the Environment has ruled out a "fire sale" in the run-up to the 1998, CNT's chief executive, John Walker, is urging the case for a successor to the central dispersals agency. "If we want to continue to attract overseas investment," he says, "it is important to have a strategy to ensure that we do not give out a confused message."

The CNT can claim a track record of success, based on a portfolio wide enough to interest most of the world growth econo-

mies. The English new towns, for example, are already home to some 125 Japanese companies — over half in Milton Keynes and in Telford, where the power tool giant, Makita, plans an expansion.

Although CNT's marketing director, David Ludford, admits that the first flush of top-rank Japanese companies has subsided, he thinks it is now the turn of medium-size investors to "come west". Among these, he has been negotiating with a manufacturer who chose an English new town over France — despite higher land prices.

Korea and Taiwan are natural targets in electronics and the high-tech sector. The Taiwanese computer firm, Mitac International, picked Telford Science Park's Nedge Hill campus for its £3.8 million European HQ in preference to Germany, fearing spiralling production costs in mainland Europe,

and is now doubling its floor space to service rising European sales.

German companies are looking favourably on the UK as a refuge from domestic economic problems. In the mature US market, the winning strategy focuses on growth sectors such as automotive components, plastics and electronics, which are already eyeing up Europe as well as California, Georgia and Utah.

Inside the UK, one of the largest recent moves was Mobil Oil's HQ relocation from London to Norwich Union's Witan Gate House in Milton Keynes. Domestic moves of this scale are rarer now than in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and the property consultants Jones Lang Wootton estimate that 70 per cent of the relatively small number of major office moves from central

London in 1996 and 1997 will be within the metropolitan area. One reason for this concentration is that the newly favoured locations of Docklands and Hammersmith have effectively become extensions of the central core, widening in the process the scope of London's global offer.

For the Lloyds Bank Group member, Black Horse Relocation, estimates that one in four UK firms — and a third of those in London — will move over the next five years, largely to accommodate business expansion. Asked to name their best business location, most plumped for London, but Birmingham, which came second, was voted top for quality of workforce and infrastructure. Given a "free choice", companies placed Bristol and Oxford joint first, and Birmingham and Cambridge joint third.

London vies for business

The success of the capital's first inward-investment agency

To succeed in the 21st century, says John Cox, chief executive of the London First Centre (LFC), cities need to market themselves as businesses to business. Launched in April 1994 as the capital's first-ever dedicated inward investment agency, David Crawford writes: LFC has dealt with 240 projects and inquiries — half from the US and a fifth from the Pacific Rim — and by the end of March 1996 expects to have completed 46 inward moves.

LFC is funded jointly by the DTI, the City of London, City of Westminster, London Docklands Development Corporation and 70 partner companies from the private sector. Formerly a main board director of Shell Chemicals, Mr Cox joined LFC from the Chemical Industries Association, where he was director general. He stresses London's competitiveness in property and telecommunications costs, and its attractiveness to specialist markets including chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Interestingly, given London's world role in financial services, that sector is only the second main source of inquiries (ahead of IT/computing). The biggest is manufacturing — potentially a boost to the capital's often under-appreciated industrial strengths.

A more spectacular vote of confidence in the capital is represented by Korean conglomerate Samsung's decision to relocate its European head office from Frankfurt to west London — where a purpose-built HQ is expected to house 400 staff by the

year 2000. The bulk of LFC projects are currently small in job terms — mostly in the 10-50 range. This, says director of services Robert Ashmead, reflects two factors. "First, high-tech companies looking to access overseas markets earlier in their corporate life cycle than established concerns. Second, even large international businesses coming to London for the first time are cautious over the scale of their set ups."

The success of LFC's approach is evident from a current telephone sales campaign aimed at 6,000 US companies which are at present without European offices, or have their European representation outside Britain. This has so far produced an 8 per cent response in firm requests for meetings to discuss a London presence.

By the end of 1995, Mr Ashmead expects 80 per cent of LFC contracts to come directly from sources outside the Invest in Britain Bureau. This will reverse the present proportion.

Central London is by no means the only beneficiary from the LFC effort. Finnish costing software developer QPR, for example, decided on Twickenham Japanese spectacle manufacturer Charamant has set up offices at Staples Corner; and US gypsum wallboard manufacturer USG has moved into Basing-



Cox: competitive benefits

When changing places becomes a family affair

Give your employer time to complete a personal checklist

One of the biggest mistakes made by employers is to think they will save expense if they leave employees to "get on with" a move, says Tad Zurlinden, the chief executive of the Association of Relocation Agents.

Paul Richards, of Rowan Corporate Relocation, estimates that only 30 per cent of Britain's annual 100,000 employment-induced moves are given a professional support package. However, employers who have used relocation consultants are increasingly likely to continue to do so.

A survey, due out on October 26, by PHH Homegroup of 300 British businesses indicates that 27 per cent of respondents always use a specialist agency, compared with only 2 per cent in 1989. The reason for the unpopularity, believes the managing director, Steve Abbley, is the administrative burden caused by tax changes and the need for accountability of employees' relocation expenses.

In response, his company has introduced an outright purchase scheme designed to free companies from financial risk and balance-sheet complications and maximise the value of the employee's £8,000 tax-free expenses concession.

The services of relocation consultants vary widely. Leading operators provide packages including guaranteed or managed home sale, funding, home purchase or rental search, employee counselling and vacant property maintenance; ARA's membership also includes regional firms offering homesearch and educational advice.

All are finding, however, that while employers are proving less generous in offering benefits, employees are becoming more concerned about the personal aspects of relocation. The most obvious stems from moves to higher-priced areas where companies are unwilling to subsidise the additional cost of a comparable property and location.

John Carolan, the managing director of Black Horse Relocation, advises employers to give employees time to find out about the kind of homes and travel-to-work times that their new colleagues expect. "Not everyone can afford to live in Weybridge," he points out.

ARC Relocation has introduced HomeMatch, a geo-demographic database. This uses classified postcodes to give personnel managers a "justifiable case to present to employees with unrealistic expectations of property differential payments," says managing director, Bob Rae.



Schindler: check mobility clause

Spouses' interests are another sensitive issue. Research by Hambro Countrywide Relocation suggests that only 38 per cent of companies offer any assistance to partners of relocating staff — and then only highly selectively.

Andrew Finney, HCR chief executive, says: "With the very real risk of a second income being lost, companies must address the issue not from altruism, but from a business perspective." The point is highlighted by a Court of Appeal ruling that mobility clauses in standard employment contracts may amount to indirect sexual discrimination against women as secondary earners.

Following European directives, standard terms and conditions of

employment now have to spell out employees' mobility obligations. The importance of employers giving their relocation policies a legal "health check" is stressed by Meriel Schindler, an employment law specialist at City solicitors Withers.

Mobility clauses, she points out, can be challenged if exercised capriciously — as when a Leeds bank employee successfully contested a demand to move to Birmingham at three days' notice with no support.

Education is the third problem area, with schools a key factor in the search for a new home. Checking availability of places is often left too late in the day, warns the education consultant Gill Bowker, of Tavistock Relocation Management, a business acquired by Rowan in 1994.

She cites the case of one father who delayed seeking advice and was too committed to a house purchase when he found that the nearest school his daughter could attend was 18 miles away.

Ms Bowker, a former teacher who has experienced multiple family moves, runs constant checks on schools and education authorities and lists Cheshire, Solihull, Stockport and Sunderland as among the most likely to guarantee a place near the new home.

DAVID CRAWFORD

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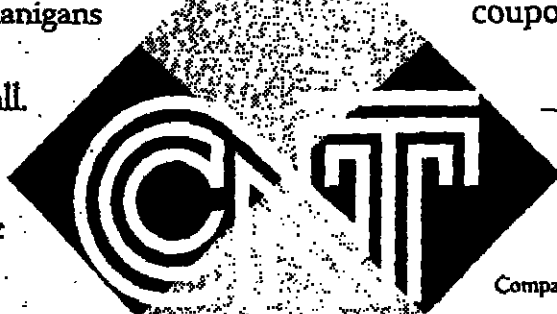
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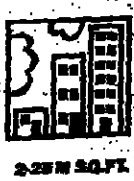
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Wales keeps its attraction

Two firms relocating to Wales will soon create 3,700 new jobs. A Japanese company is expecting to move in during the next few weeks, and the Welsh Development Agency is planning to welcome a leading Korean manufacturing business before Christmas.

These jobs are in addition to the 3,900 created or safeguarded by inward investors since April. And Ford, the motor manufacturer, yesterday announced a £340 million expansion at its engine plant at Bridgend, which will create about 1,000 jobs.

Even so, it is a very different world from the heady days of the late 1980s and early 1990s, when Wales routinely obtained over 20 per cent of projects moving to the UK. Last year, the Principality only received 11.5 per cent, and was third in the Invest in Britain Bureau league, behind Scotland and the West Midlands.

"There are many reasons for this reduction," according to James Turner, head of inward investment at the WDA.

Iola Smith on the successes of the Welsh Development Agency

"Competition is keener. Back in 1985 for example the WDA was one of only three agencies seeking business in Tokyo. Now there are 52. In Europe there are now over 650 development agencies competing for projects, double the number of five years ago."

The main reason, however, is that Wales lost out when the development area map of the UK was redrawn in 1993.

Before then, 35 per cent of Wales's population lived in a designated development area, where relocating companies could obtain substantial grants. After 1993 the percentage fell to 15 per cent.

In contrast, there was considerable expansion of dev-

elopment areas in England, while Scotland held steady at 46 per cent of the population covered. As a result, Scotland got the most investment.

But relocating companies do not only look for grants, as one of this year's newcomers illustrates. Almedica, a New Jersey firm which produces clinical testing equipment, came to the UK in search of a site. It shortlisted two, Dossie, in Clwyd, and another UK region. Having assessed the financial packages on offer, it chose the other region.

But three months later it was back in Wales, and six months after signing a contract with the WDA it opened a £1.5 million bespoke factory and employed 60 people.

Mr Turner says: "Companies want more than just cash. We offer them a high-quality workforce, and a package that will enable them to expand in Wales long-term."

"Our Japanese companies say that their plants in Wales are among the most successful in the world. So although the loss of development area sta-

tus has posed a challenge for us, we are not daunted."

Almedica is not the only US company to move to Wales this year. Truesdell picked a rural mid-Wales site as its £2.7 million European headquarters. It has 60 staff making

plastic tubes and seals for the automotive industry.

The largest investment has come from the Far East. Ringtel, of Taiwan, is investing £2.5 million in a telecommunications equipment plant that will create 100 jobs. And

GSS Array Technology is establishing its European manufacturing base in Cwmbran, with 300 new jobs.

Much activity this year in Wales is focusing on the expansion of existing foreign-owned firms. This reinforces

both the companies' and the WDA's commitment to the long-term. In Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan, the German firm Bayer created another 90 jobs with a £3.5 million expansion.

European relocators previously announced have taken up residence, with Dutch insurance giant NCM moving into its £16 million new UK headquarters on Cardiff's waterfront last May.

Increasingly, relocations will be expected from Europe in the next few years, after the opening of the WDA's commercial centre in Brussels earlier this month.

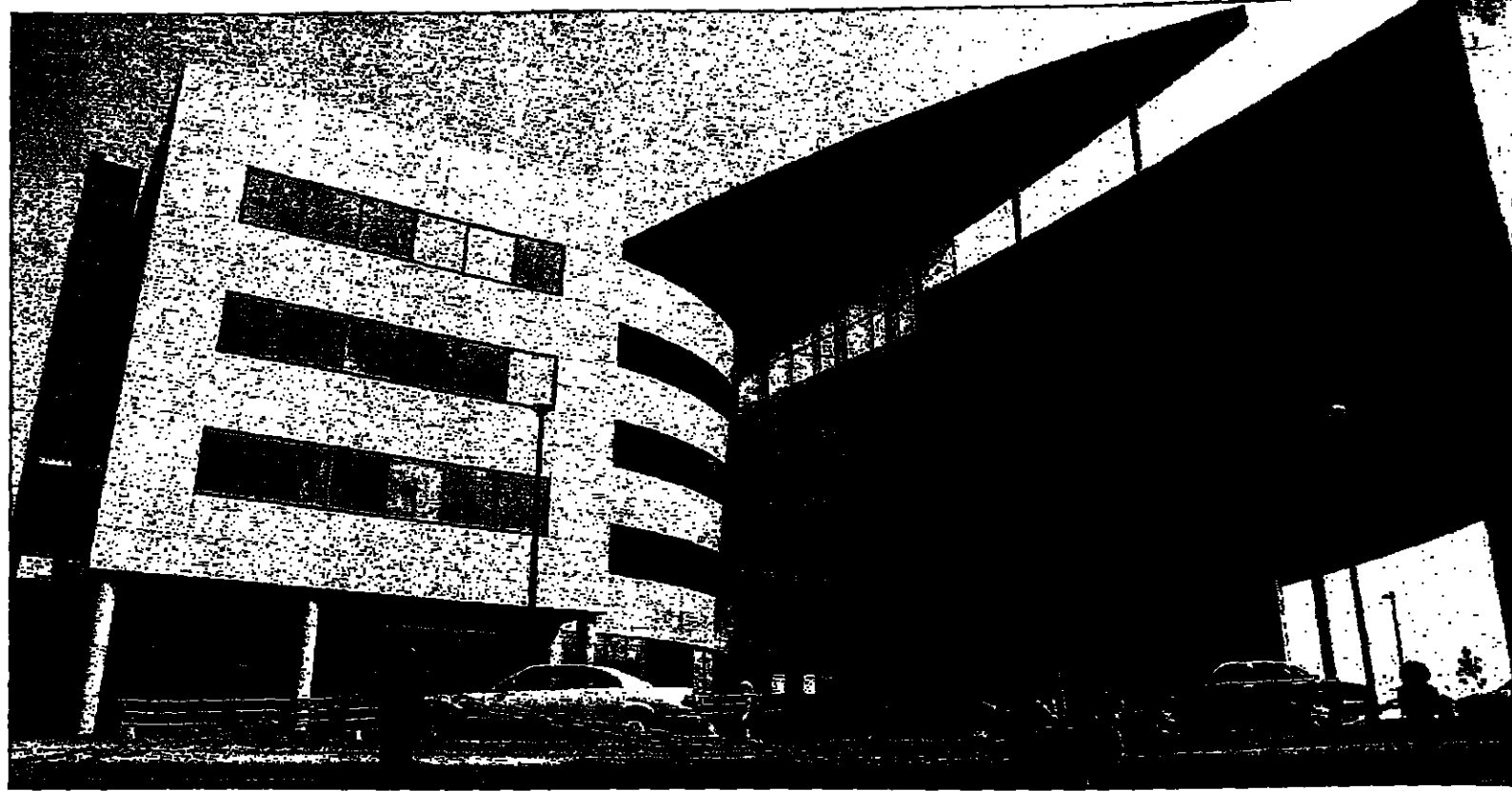
As well as targeting investment from the Benelux countries and Germany, the centre will give Wales increasing access to American and Far Eastern multinationals which have their European headquarters in the Belgian capital.

One international joint venture, the £200 million Ocean Technical Glass project, begins production in Cardiff Bay later this year. Nippon Electric Glass, of Japan, and Schott Glaswerke, of Germany, came to Wales to make glass for

Sony televisions. Attracting such suppliers to the main manufacturers is vital. L'Oréal, for example, has attracted the Spanish bottle producer Envasas in its wake, and Sony has encouraged Japanese plastics manufacturer Diaplastic to Bridgend.

Welsh-based suppliers are also servicing firms that have relocated to England. "Under the Source Wales Initiative, Samsung, Honda and Nissan have signed agreements to use suppliers from the principality whenever possible," explains the WDA's Graham Moore. "Just-in-time manufacturing methods are making local supply more important. Japanese-owned Calsonic International, of Llanelli, is supplying radiators on this basis to Nissan."

Two years ago the WDA feared that some multinationals would prefer Eastern Europe to Wales. Fortunately, that has not happened. Countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Lithuania and Croatia are now using Wales as the model for regenerating their economies.



NCM Credit Insurance, the giant Dutch insurer, has moved into its new £16 million United Kingdom headquarters building in Cardiff Bay

A few of the



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WELSH
DEVELOPMENT
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Bright lights of the north

Alan Jenkins on Scotland,

Britain's most successful location

Mitsubishi may be the name on the television set, video or cellular phone, but more often these days an inscription on the box reads: *Made in Scotland*. Scotland, with 23 per cent of the UK's inward investment last year, is Britain's most successful location.

David McFadyen, the European director of Locate in Scotland, an arm of Scottish Enterprise, says: "We're having another good year. We can't guarantee that we shall be better in every category next year — more projects, more jobs, more investment — but we're on track to do well. The strength of Scotland is that investment is broadly based. Although half is from electronics, investment also reflects software, service centre activity, textiles and mechanical engineering — and the chance of the electronics industry hitting a full is pretty remote."

Scotland produces more than 38 per cent of Europe's branded PCs, more than half Europe's automated banking machines and a quarter of the world's top-quality woollens.

The geographical mix matches the industrial mix. This year has seen the setting up of an £8 million factory in Irvine by a Turkish company, creating 450 jobs. A fish-feed manufacturer from Finland has opened an R&D wing in Livingston, and a German toy-maker has moved its operations from Essen to the Highlands.

The most recent coup was the announcement of a £26 million development by the US electronics company, Leonard International, near the Rosyth dockyard. The £16 factory will employ 500, producing cartridges for ink-jet printers. The contract was won in the face of competition from a number of European countries.

Dr Paul Curlander, executive vice-president of the Kentucky-based company, said that the availability of skilled labour and support from local agencies were two reasons for making the choice. "The ability of Locate in Scotland and Invest in Life to attract business and inward investment is

the best in the world."

Competition for investment has become increasingly strong. China and South-East Asia offer low operating costs and rapidly developing economies. Within Europe, Ireland has emerged as Scotland's leading competitor, offering a corporate tax rate of only 10 per cent and other financial incentives.

Locate in Scotland is targeting service industries in growing markets. It says: "We shall be seeking to attract more knowledge-intensive investments. The company location which designs and develops a product has a significant advantage, particularly in sectors where product life cycles are short. Companies with locally based R&D facilities source a higher proportion of their components within Scotland than companies whose R&D facilities are based elsewhere."

The agency is in the middle of a major campaign to attract call centres — services using the most advanced technology to deal with customers by phone — which it sees as a strategic sector.

Scotland is already one of the three leading centres in Europe, providing 4,500 jobs last year. IBM has a centre providing technical support for the whole of Europe. Other pan-European operations include car-hire reservation and subscriber management services for BSkyB.

Mr McFadyen says: "Before targeting, we audit ourselves to see where we are strongest in terms of skills, availability and flexibility of workforce, and the output of our universities. For instance, we are world class in artificial intelligence and laser technology. But we rely essentially on our track record. We sell through our existing companies. They are our greatest asset."

One of its companies, Sun Microsystems, recently announced a £3 million expansion of its Lifford plant, creating 50 jobs. Its vice president, John Shoemaker, says: "Now that our Scottish plant has the capability to build all our products, we look upon it as our leading global plant."

The Pic of M...

INTERPRET ZONE

WDA

The Pied Piper of Merseyside

Christopher Gibaud has relocated more often than the companies he tempts to invest in new areas.

He was economic development officer in Swindon, Wiltshire, for five years in the 1980s — boom years for the M4 corridor as businesses moved west from London.

In 1988 he became director of the Peterborough Development Agency which took over the marketing of the new town after the closure of the development corporation. The profile of the city through its marketing banner, "the Peterborough effect", became one of the best known in the UK.

A two-year programme of developing marketing and business support services at Widnes, Cheshire, was followed by his present appointment as chief executive of the Mersey Partnership, an initiative bringing together the public and private sectors in the Liverpool region. Few people are as well qualified to talk about the changes that have taken place around the country in the battle to win investment.

He says: "There is not as much relocation as there used to be and it is competed for far more aggressively. I was in Swindon at the height of the boom years, when anywhere within a 75-mile radius of London saw an enormous amount of relocation."

"Companies had cash, they were growing rapidly and they were looking for a better way of life for their staff. The local authority I worked for was the only one that, off its own bat, was doing relocation marketing seriously. Our competitors were the new towns and the development corporations. That changed out of all recognition in the 1990s. Now, virtually every market town you look at has got some kind of investment project."

"You still have the major players with Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland in the forefront, along with large cities and the development corporations, but there is also a plethora of agencies. It is a very crowded landscape. We are also competing with European locations for European companies and inward investment."

Mr Gibaud says another important change has been the growth of professionalism, partly in response to the more

Rodney Hobson meets the man who is a master mover

competitive atmosphere but also because of the advances in technology.

He says: "We are all getting better at marketing ourselves and there is a much greater perception of who we are sending our message to. We have built up large databases and we can concentrate on specific companies or sectors. This was inconceivable ten years ago."

"In Swindon, we were advanced for the time. We advertised in national newspapers. Now, most work is done in direct marketing. We build

were previously seen as extremely expensive are now arguing that they are low cost. Commercial relocations dropped like a stone in London, and a glut of properties built in the South East in the late 1980s was not filled up in the recession.

"Investment in a new area is now more likely to come from expansion of the business, rather than closing down the existing operation. We have all recognised the fallacy of companies moving from A to B. Our gain this year could be our loss next year."

"Companies have also come to realise that tempting offers to move may not turn out as well as expected. They have learnt to read the small print, and the generous relocation packages help only at the beginning. They need to be sure that there is a future in the new location that more than offsets the cost of shutting up shop and trekking across the country. Mr Gibaud says the regions have realised that winning investment is not just about creating jobs, important as that is. It is also about private-sector finance in a conference hall, in leisure facilities and in the infrastructure. Local authorities do not take as simplistic an approach as they used to do."

They also take a sensible approach to attracting foreign investment, which should not be won at the cost of putting local enterprises out of business. Mr Gibaud points to the North East as being particularly successful in attracting foreign companies.

He says: "Foreign investment is seen as valuable because it creates new jobs and brings in money but it is generally seen as the icing on the cake. It can lead to significant amounts of local investment and it creates a lot of publicity. Inward investment sends a very strong signal to the marketplace."

However, he says that there is a recognition that protecting the existing local economy is of equal or greater importance than bringing new investment in: "We are all trying to make our location different, but external investment will always be a small percentage of overall growth. More than 50 per cent of all relocation investments will come from within a 50-mile radius."

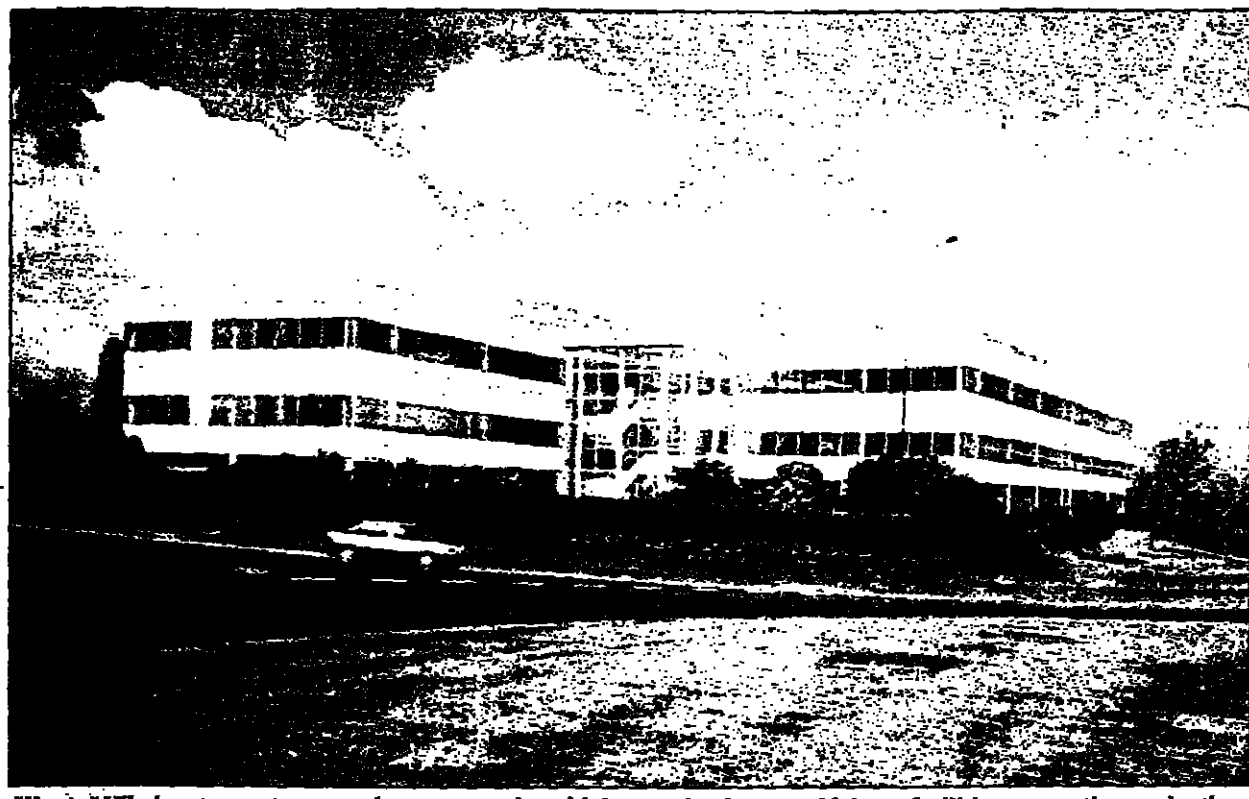
relationships with companies before they have even thought of investing. If you wait until they are about to move and then ask them to come to your region, they probably won't come. We have to help them to make their decision. Whether they are making widgets or in financial services, the client expects you to demonstrate from the outset that you understand their business."

Mr Gibaud says far fewer companies move lock, stock and barrel across the country as they did in the 1980s, mainly because of the cost. Another reason is that the North-South divide has narrowed.

He says: "Some areas that



Christopher Gibaud: "Investment creates jobs"



King's Hill aims to create a complete community with homes, business and leisure facilities supporting each other

The pulling power of greenfield sites

David Crawford reports on a new strategy on out-of-town parks

Business parks, which set out to provide relocators and inward investors with environmentally attractive greenfield sites, face a shake-up under the Government's Sustainable Development Strategy to discourage dispersed development and restrict car usage. The Department of the Environment (DoE) is about to produce a review of the implementation of its recently introduced Planning Policy Guidance note 13 (PPG13), which calls for local planning authorities (LPAs) to promote development within existing urban areas.

PPG13 specifically urges LPAs to ensure that parking provision at peripheral business locations is not "set at high levels which would have the effect of significantly disadvantage more central areas". David Easson, of Rouse Kent, who chairs the British Council of Offices' recently formed Out of Town Offices and Business Parks Committee, feels that the DoE will be watching this point closely.

With about 800 business and science parks of varying quality already planned, started or operational — a third with target floor space of 500,000 sq ft — it will obviously take time for the full effects of PPG13 to be felt.

Many may not be easily marketable, however, unless they are prepared to be flexible in both type and size of building provided. Except on headquarter-quality parks, post-recession conditions favour providing for a mix of

occupiers, while despite the best intention of some developers, small businesses have provided the bulk of occupiers and helped to keep the market ticking over during recent poor years.

Patrick Deignan, of Arlington, doubts that PPG13 will present locational problems for schemes of strategic importance. Already, however, a decade and more on from such 1980s landmarks as Aztec West outside Bristol and Stockley Park near Heathrow, he and other developers are evolving a new type of business park which is closely integrated into the urban environment.

Locations and layouts are being rethought and the DoE can draw encouragement from the number of semi-urban rather than virgin sites. Examples include Arlington's Oxford and Coventry Business Parks, on the former Cowley and Rover car plants respectively; Severn Trent/GMI's Thorpe Business Park on the

outskirts of Leeds; and AMEC Developments' Cheadle Royal, south of Manchester.

"We are dealing with many fewer greenfield proposals now," says Geoffrey Thorpe, of Thorpe Architecture, which is planning Berlin's Brandenburg Park and a \$4.5 billion airport city in Israel, as well as a number of UK schemes.

He expects his vision for Cheadle Royal to start being realised in November. With a planned 670,000 sq ft of employment space, this features one of the most ambitious social and leisure complexes conceived for a business park, including a David Lloyd tennis centre and a Travelodge motel.

"It's a far cry from often subsidised amenities which are hidden away inside parks and dead after 6pm," Mr Thorpe says.

Thorpe Business Park will have a sports club, pitches, 110 acres of open space, a new

railway station and a public road running through the middle instead of circling round the outside as at older parks.

Ambitious in a different way is US developer Rouse Kent's King's Hill, near Maidstone, Kent, which aims to confront the problem of dispersal by creating a complete community with new homes, business space, educational and leisure facilities all supporting each other. The original plan, for 4 million sq ft of employment space and 500 homes, has been reworked in the light of US experience and UK market conditions to deliver an eventual 2.8 million sq ft of employment space — enough for up to 8,000 jobs — and 1,500 homes, at prices ranging between £60,000 and £250,000.

Drawing on its US origins, Rouse Kent is also introducing Flex 2000, the first example in Britain of a popular American building design which offers occupiers maximum choice in the use, layout and fitting of the high eaves-height interiors to suit their own business needs. The exterior, by contrast, matches the surrounding conventional offices.

Office musical chairs

MUSICAL chairs is still played in London. After the property slump, there is still a surplus of office space in the capital, allowing companies to relocate without moving a great distance.

Mark McAlister, of Richard Ellis, the property consultant, says: "There is plenty of movement in the City and the West End. There are always people moving to new buildings because of expansion or contraction, mergers and acquisitions, or simply because the lease on their existing premises is running out."

Many move to upgrade their technology. A gap has grown between the sought-after modern buildings in prime locations and hard-to-let older buildings, especially those in fringe locations.

Mr McAlister is currently concentrating on Canary Wharf in Docklands which will be 75 per cent let once two more suites are fitted out. Many come from within a few miles, none from the regions. He says: "Companies coming here are principally from the City, the West End, Hammer-smith or Europe. We have attracted quite a wide range of businesses. We have oil companies, newspapers and advertisers as well as the financial sector."

Among the most recent office lets in Canary Wharf was that to the Brussels-based European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries. Its offices on the 27th floor of the 800ft tower will be used mainly by 16 national pharmaceutical associations of the European Union and European Free Trade Association.

Another new recruit to Docklands is Radio Caroline, the former pirate radio ship, which now has a licence and operates from the MV Ross Revenge, moored at South Quay, West India Docks.

Companies move to Docklands because they can have high quality, low cost, secure offices constructed to incorporate the latest technology, says Mr McAlister. "Total outgoings in Canary Wharf are generally only 50 per cent of those for a comparable building elsewhere in London," he says. "Rents, rates and running costs are cheaper."

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Ulster cashes in on peace

Business is showing renewed interest in Northern Ireland

The first year of the Northern Ireland peace process has resulted in an upsurge of interest in moving to the Province, even by Ulstermen and women, Rodney Hobson writes.

Michael Roberts, deputy director general for international operations at the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board (IDB), says: "We have seen an impressive pick-up in the level of general inquiries over the past 12 months from businesses that are considering moving here. There has been a three-fold increase in the number of American businessmen coming to look round. Our missions abroad are also getting a better reception." He says that Northern Ireland has the lowest manufacturing costs in the UK, and probably in the western world. It also has one of the most modern telecommunications networks, which has attracted many companies, particularly in the finance sector, to locate customer call centres there.

He rejects suggestions that Northern Ireland suffers from being on the edge of Europe: "We are no more peripheral to Europe than Seattle is to the rest of the United States and Seattle has Boeing and Microsoft, two of the biggest industries in the world. Nowhere in Northern Ireland is more than two hours from a port or an airport."

IDB tries to identify new

projects that can set up in Northern Ireland rather than trying to lure existing companies across the Irish Sea. Its counterpart for small businesses, the Local Enterprise Development Unit, is, however, trying to move people.

LEDU's "Make It Back Home" campaign, launched this month, aims to bring home some of the 200,000 people who have left Northern Ireland in the past 25 years. Baroness Denton, Northern Ireland Economy Minister, said: "Now is an exciting time for Northern Ireland. We have probably never had so much to offer to qualified and experienced people with a good idea and the desire to set up their own business... The quality of emigrants — 80 per cent of them were educated to secondary level and 26 per cent were university graduates — means that Northern Ireland lost a very large number of people who would normally have made a huge contribution to business and community life. We want them back."

LEDU has run seminars and business clinics in North America and says that 500 people from the Province indicated they wanted to come home. In the past 12 months, the agency has already helped 70 people to return from abroad; they in turn have created 300 jobs. A further 30 business plans are being considered for financial aid.

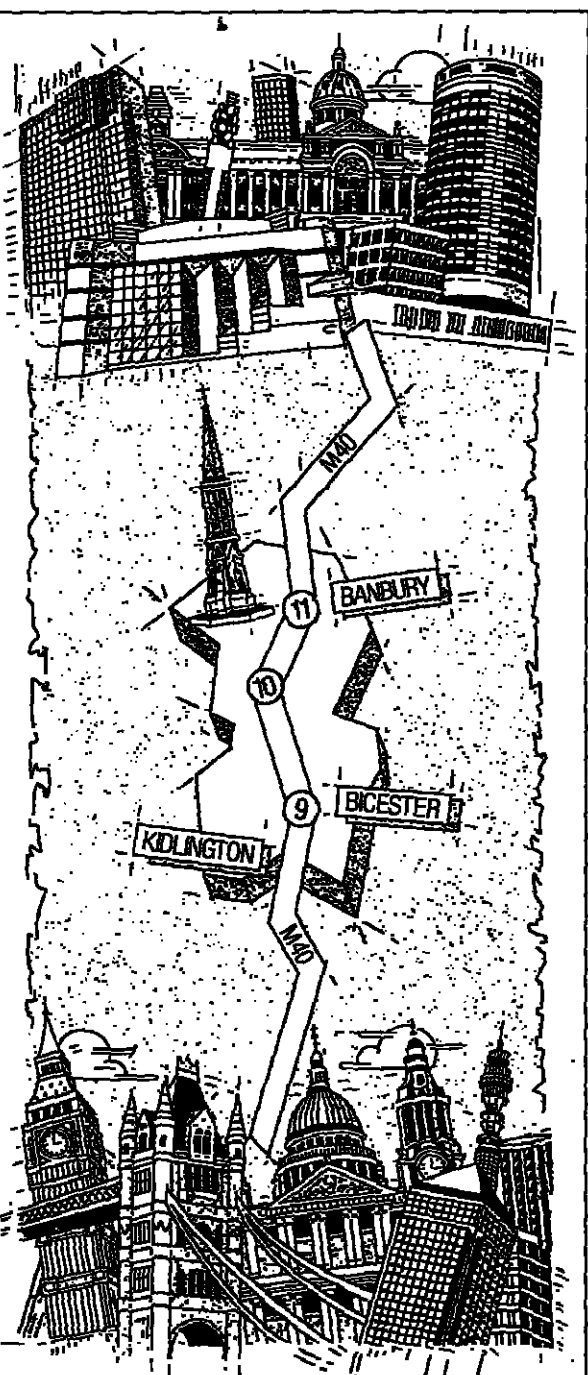
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Fund Name	Assets	YTD %	12-M %	3-M %	6-M %	1-YR %	2-YR %	3-YR %	4-YR %
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	1.2%	2.5%	0.8%	1.5%	3.1%	4.2%	5.5%	6.8%
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ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	15.0%	16.7%	14.6%	15.3%	17.0%	18.6%	20.0%	21.3%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	15.3%	17.0%	14.9%	15.6%	17.3%	18.9%	20.3%	21.6%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	15.6%	17.3%	15.2%	15.9%	17.6%	19.2%	20.6%	21.9%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	15.9%	17.6%	15.5%	16.2%	17.9%	19.5%	20.9%	22.2%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	16.2%	17.9%	15.8%	16.5%	18.2%	19.8%	21.2%	22.5%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	16.5%	18.2%	16.1%	16.8%	18.5%	20.1%	21.5%	22.8%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	16.8%	18.5%	16.4%	17.1%	18.8%	20.4%	21.8%	23.1%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	17.1%	18.8%	16.7%	17.4%	19.1%	20.7%	22.1%	23.4%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	17.4%	19.1%	17.0%	17.7%	19.4%	21.0%	22.4%	23.7%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	17.7%	19.4%	17.3%	18.0%	19.7%	21.3%	22.7%	24.0%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	18.0%	19.7%	17.6%	18.3%	20.0%	21.6%	23.0%	24.3%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	18.3%	20.0%	17.9%	18.6%	20.3%	21.9%	23.3%	24.6%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	18.6%	20.3%	18.2%	18.9%	20.6%	22.2%	23.6%	24.9%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	18.9%	20.6%	18.5%	19.2%	20.9%	22.5%	23.9%	25.2%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	19.2%	20.9%	18.8%	19.5%	21.2%	22.8%	24.2%	25.5%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	19.5%	21.2%	19.1%	19.8%	21.5%	23.1%	24.5%	25.8%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	19.8%	21.5%	19.4%	20.1%	21.8%	23.4%	24.8%	26.1%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	20.1%	21.8%	19.7%	20.4%	22.1%	23.7%	25.1%	26.4%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	20.4%	22.1%	20.0%	20.7%	22.4%	24.0%	25.4%	26.7%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	20.7%	22.4%	20.3%	21.0%	22.7%	24.3%	25.7%	27.0%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	21.0%	22.7%	20.6%	21.3%	23.0%	24.6%	26.0%	27.3%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	21.3%	23.0%	20.9%	21.6%	23.3%	24.9%	26.3%	27.6%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	21.6%	23.3%	21.2%	21.9%	23.6%	25.2%	26.6%	27.9%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	21.9%	23.6%	21.5%	22.2%	23.9%	25.5%	26.9%	28.2%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	22.2%	23.9%	21.8%	22.5%	24.2%	25.8%	27.2%	28.5%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	22.5%	24.2%	22.1%	22.8%	24.5%	26.1%	27.5%	28.8%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	22.8%	24.5%	22.4%	23.1%	24.8%	26.4%	27.8%	29.1%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	23.1%	24.8%	22.7%	23.4%	25.1%	26.7%	28.1%	29.4%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	23.4%	25.1%	23.0%	23.7%	25.4%	27.0%	28.4%	29.7%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	23.7%	25.4%	23.3%	24.0%	25.7%	27.3%	28.7%	30.0%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	24.0%	25.7%	23.6%	24.3%	26.0%	27.6%	29.0%	30.3%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	24.3%	26.0%	23.9%	24.6%	26.3%	27.9%	29.3%	30.6%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	24.6%	26.3%	24.2%	24.9%	26.6%	28.2%	29.6%	30.9%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	24.9%	26.6%	24.5%	25.2%	26.9%	28.5%	29.9%	31.2%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	25.2%	26.9%	24.8%	25.5%	27.2%	28.8%	30.2%	31.5%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	25.5%	27.2%	25.1%	25.8%	27.5%	29.1%	30.5%	31.8%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	25.8%	27.5%	25.4%	26.1%	27.8%	29.4%	30.8%	32.1%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	26.1%	27.8%	25.7%	26.4%	28.1%	29.7%	31.1%	32.4%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	26.4%	28.1%	26.0%	26.7%	28.4%	30.0%	31.4%	32.7%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	26.7%	28.4%	26.3%	27.0%	28.7%	30.3%	31.7%	33.0%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	27.0%	28.7%	26.6%	27.3%	29.0%	30.6%	32.0%	33.3%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	27.3%	29.0%	26.9%	27.6%	29.3%	30.9%	32.3%	33.6%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	27.6%	29.3%	27.2%	27.9%	29.6%	31.2%	32.6%	33.9%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	27.9%	29.6%	27.5%	28.2%	29.9%	31.5%	32.9%	34.2%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	28.2%	29.9%	27.8%	28.5%	30.2%	31.8%	33.2%	34.5%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	28.5%	30.2%	28.1%	28.8%	30.5%	32.1%	33.5%	34.8%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	28.8%	30.5%	28.4%	29.1%	30.8%	32.4%	33.8%	35.1%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	29.1%	30.8%	28.7%	29.4%	31.1%	32.7%	34.1%	35.4%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	29.4%	31.1%	29.0%	29.7%	31.4%	33.0%	34.4%	35.7%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	29.7%	31.4%	29.3%	30.0%	31.7%	33.3%	34.7%	36.0%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	30.0%	31.7%	29.6%	30.3%	32.0%	33.6%	35.0%	36.3%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	30.3%	32.0%	29.9%	30.6%	32.3%	33.9%	35.3%	36.6%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	30.6%	32.3%	30.2%	30.9%	32.6%	34.2%	35.6%	36.9%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	30.9%	32.6%	30.5%	31.2%	32.9%	34.5%	35.9%	37.2%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	31.2%	32.9%	30.8%	31.5%	33.2%	34.8%	36.2%	37.5%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	31.5%	33.2%	31.1%	31.8%	33.5%	35.1%	36.5%	37.8%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	31.8%	33.5%	31.4%	32.1%	33.8%	35.4%	36.8%	38.1%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	32.1%	33.8%	31.7%	32.4%	34.1%	35.7%	37.1%	38.4%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	32.4%	34.1%	32.0%	32.7%	34.4%	36.0%	37.4%	38.7%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	32.7%	34.4%	32.3%	33.0%	34.7%	36.3%	37.7%	39.0%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	33.0%	34.7%	32.6%	33.3%	35.0%	36.6%	38.0%	39.3%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	33.3%	35.0%	32.9%	33.6%	35.3%	36.9%	38.3%	39.6%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	33.6%	35.3%	33.2%	33.9%	35.6%	37.2%	38.6%	39.9%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	33.9%	35.6%	33.5%	34.2%	35.9%	37.5%	38.9%	40.2%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	34.2%	35.9%	33.8%	34.5%	36.2%	37.8%	39.2%	40.5%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	34.5%	36.2%	34.1%	34.8%	36.5%	38.1%	39.5%	40.8%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	34.8%	36.5%	34.4%	35.1%	36.8%	38.4%	39.8%	41.1%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	35.1%	36.8%	34.7%	35.4%	37.1%	38.7%	40.1%	41.4%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	35.4%	37.1%	35.0%	35.7%	37.4%	39.0%	40.4%	41.7%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	35.7%	37.4%	35.3%	36.0%	37.7%	39.3%	40.7%	42.0%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	36.0%	37.7%	35.6%	36.3%	38.0%	39.6%	41.0%	42.3%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	36.3%	38.0%	35.9%	36.6%	38.3%	39.9%	41.3%	42.6%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	36.6%	38.3%	36.2%	36.9%	38.6%	40.2%	41.6%	42.9%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	36.9%	38.6%	36.5%	37.2%	38.9%	40.5%	41.9%	43.2%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	37.2%	38.9%	36.8%	37.5%	39.2%	40.8%	42.2%	43.5%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.00	37.5%	39.2%	37.1%	37.8%	39.5%	41.1%	42.5%	43.8%
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND	\$100.0								

Used office, one owner, to let

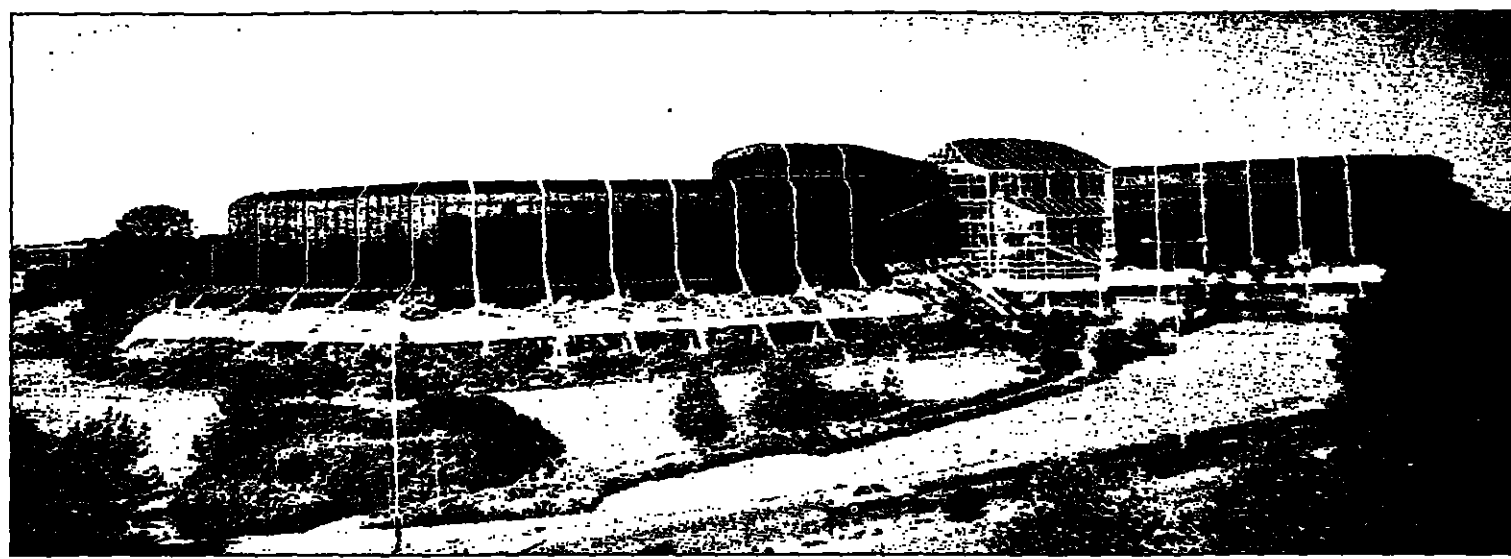
Second-hand buildings can be bargains, Christopher Warman says

A shortage of new office space has led to a higher take-up of second-hand premises in the area west of London this year and is leading to rental growth in the prime areas. Jones Lang Wootton, the commercial agent, reports in a survey.

Out of a total take-up of 1.6 million sq ft in the first half of 1995 only 398,000 sq ft was in new offices. The area surveyed, on either side of the M25 motorway, is bounded by Luton to the north, Crawley to the south, Reading to the west and Hammersmith to the east, and includes approximately 24 per cent of the total office stock in England and Wales.

Introducing the survey, Chris Hiatt, a partner of Jones Lang Wootton, says that despite a reduction in the number of applications for office space in the area as a whole demand is not matched by supply because there is only 2.86 million sq ft of space available in new buildings, with a further 463,000 sq ft under construction.

Active demand at present stands at about 6.1 million sq ft, with software companies forming the highest num-



The former Confederation Life HQ, 95,000 sq ft, built in 1988 in Basingstoke, is available to let at £15.50 a sq ft through Jones Lang Wootton.

ber of applicants, closely followed by the telecommunications sector.

These trends are emphasised by new figures for the third quarter of this year in the area along the M4 corridor between Hammersmith and Maidenhead, where both take-up and demand were 50 per cent higher than in the second quarter, with demand having doubled since the first quarter.

The result is that supply has been reduced by 14 per cent over the year so far, and it is expected that take-up may fall off over the remainder of the year because of a lack of available

space. The first half of the year has seen an improvement in headline rents for new space, particularly in the prime areas of Hammersmith and Heathrow.

Mr Hiatt says: "We are now seeing some real evidence of rental growth and, coupled with the current demand and lack of supply, the balance between landlord and tenant has been restored."

"Incentive packages are decreasing — in some cases rent-free periods have reduced to six months compared with the 18-month periods agreed a year ago — and leases are

being agreed for longer terms. These trends suggest that rents for prime space in the best locations may exceed £23.50 a square foot by the end of 1996."

The lack of suitable space has enabled landlords to secure more favourable lease terms for longer periods, which in turn is leading to increased confidence from property developers.

"Against this background there is an opportunity for the institutional development funding market to be strengthened because of the security available from longer leases and the

re-emergence of rental growth," Mr Hiatt says.

Business parks emerged as the most favoured location among companies in the area which were asked by Jones Lang Wootton about their locations and environmental criteria.

The overwhelming view was that the ideal building should offer well-specified, air-conditioned accommodation, with car parking facilities and access to the occupier's client base.

Of those interviewed, the occupiers most satisfied that their location met their criteria were those on business parks.

MARKET MOVES

Religious Touche

THE Church Commissioners for England have let the last remaining space at their headquarters office building, Verulam Point, St Albans, Hertfordshire, to Touche Ross, the international firm of accountants. Touche Ross has taken 15,280 sq ft on a 15-year lease at £11.50 a sq ft for its new regional headquarters for the northern Home Counties.

The deal was made possible by the Church Commissioners accepting a surrender of leases from both Norwich Union and Genentech UK Ltd, which each occupy 5,000 sq ft in the building. All the space in Verulam Point is let.

Gazeley Properties has purchased a 72-acre site at Southampton (Eastleigh) Airport for £6.5 million for development as an industrial and distribution centre. Gazeley estimates that 1,334,000 sq ft of accommodation could be built on the site.

The deal forms part of Gazeley's significant development drive. In the past week, the company has completed three deals with a combined development value of £93.6 million.

The other two are a site of

46.8 acres bought for £6.5 million from GEC by a joint venture company owned by Gazeley Properties and Trafford Park Estates, representing one of the few remaining opportunities for large-scale distribution at Trafford Park; and a 23-acre site at Hensel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, acquired from the Commission for the New Towns for £8.7 million, against which Gazeley has agreed a £26 million funding deal with Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Scottish Hydro-Electric plc has sold its former corporate headquarters building at Rothesay Terrace, Edinburgh, to Walker Group (Scotland) Limited. The ten terraced buildings, totalling 35,000 sq ft, will be converted into 52 luxury flats.

David Davidson, of Healey & Baker, who acted for Scottish Hydro-Electric, says that Edinburgh's West End had been blighted for many years by a large number of empty office buildings. He says: "The sale of these ten office buildings for conversion to their original residential use is a milestone in the regeneration of the area."

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WORKSHOP/
GARAGE
with extensive
forecourt area.
Prominent
position on
Southalls
Lane/Stafford
Street
TO LET

REDDITCH
Broadground Road
Lakeside Industrial Estate
20,950 sq ft, Yard Area
TO LET

WALSALL
Blowick Road
59,700 sq ft Glass fronted Unit.
Potential for redevelopment
FOR SALE/TO LET

WALSALL
LAND FOR SALE
1.34 acres
approx.
Adjoining
Aston Cross
business
village

ALCESTER
Tything Road
Arden Forest Trading Estate, 7,330 sq ft
On approx 1 acre
FOR SALE/TO LET

WOLVERHAMPTON
LAND FOR SALE
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approx.
Good access,
funding
maybe
available
Industrial area

0121-333 3363

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Fax: (01522) 531455

Development Land

Blyth Valley Borough Council has available for development an area of land comprising 1.36 hectares (3.37 acres) approximately, fronting the A193, Cowpen Road, Blyth, Northumberland. The A193 at this location is one of the more heavily trafficked urban roads in Northumberland.

The site is considered suitable for various developments. A range of uses are envisaged including leisure/DIV/vehicle showroom/food unit/warehouse and distribution/industrial/commercial.

In addition to the Council owned land, a further 4.35 hectares (10.75 acres) in private ownership, adjoining the Council's land, but to the rear, is available.

Offers for the land should be submitted by noon on Friday, 8th December 1995.

For full particulars, tender forms etc, please contact the Borough Secretary at the address below.

E Richards
Borough Secretary,
Civic Centre, Blyth, Northumberland NE24 2BN.
Tel: (01670) 542000 ext 208/210.

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NORTHUMBERLAND

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BURFORD 7 miles FARNBODON 8 miles OXFORD 24 miles

PRICE GUIDE £210,000

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TEL: 01223 763611

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SITTING TENANTS
AVAILABLE AS ONE LOT

HURLEY, BERKSHIRE

SUIT PRIVATE INVESTOR

POWIS HUGHES AND ASSOCIATES
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All buildings 1980's built.

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(Tel: 0116 285 5500)
Hayman Sage & Mann
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MUSIC 1
Sir Colin Davis: happy to be powerless as the new maestro at the helm of the LSO



MUSIC 2
Roger Norrington and the London Philharmonic open their series of Berlioz "Experiences"

THE TIMES ARTS



POP
Wayward, bruised and beautiful: the voice of Rickie Lee Jones still enchants at the Palladium



TOMORROW
After *Four Weddings and a Misdemeanour*, how does Hugh Grant's new film measure up?

Richard Morrison profiles Sir Colin Davis, the new principal conductor of the LSO

Charisma? That's not my style

The London Symphony Orchestra is 91 years old. Its new principal conductor, Sir Colin Davis, is 68. The only surprise, some might feel, is that these two great British musical institutions have taken so long to hitch their destinies together. For when Davis inaugurates the new era at the Barbican on Saturday, with a performance of the opera-symphony *Roméo and Juliet* by his beloved Berlioz, he will be conducting an orchestra that he first faced almost four decades ago. Indeed, it is 30 years since the LSO "players" first considered Davis for their top job — and voted against him in droves.

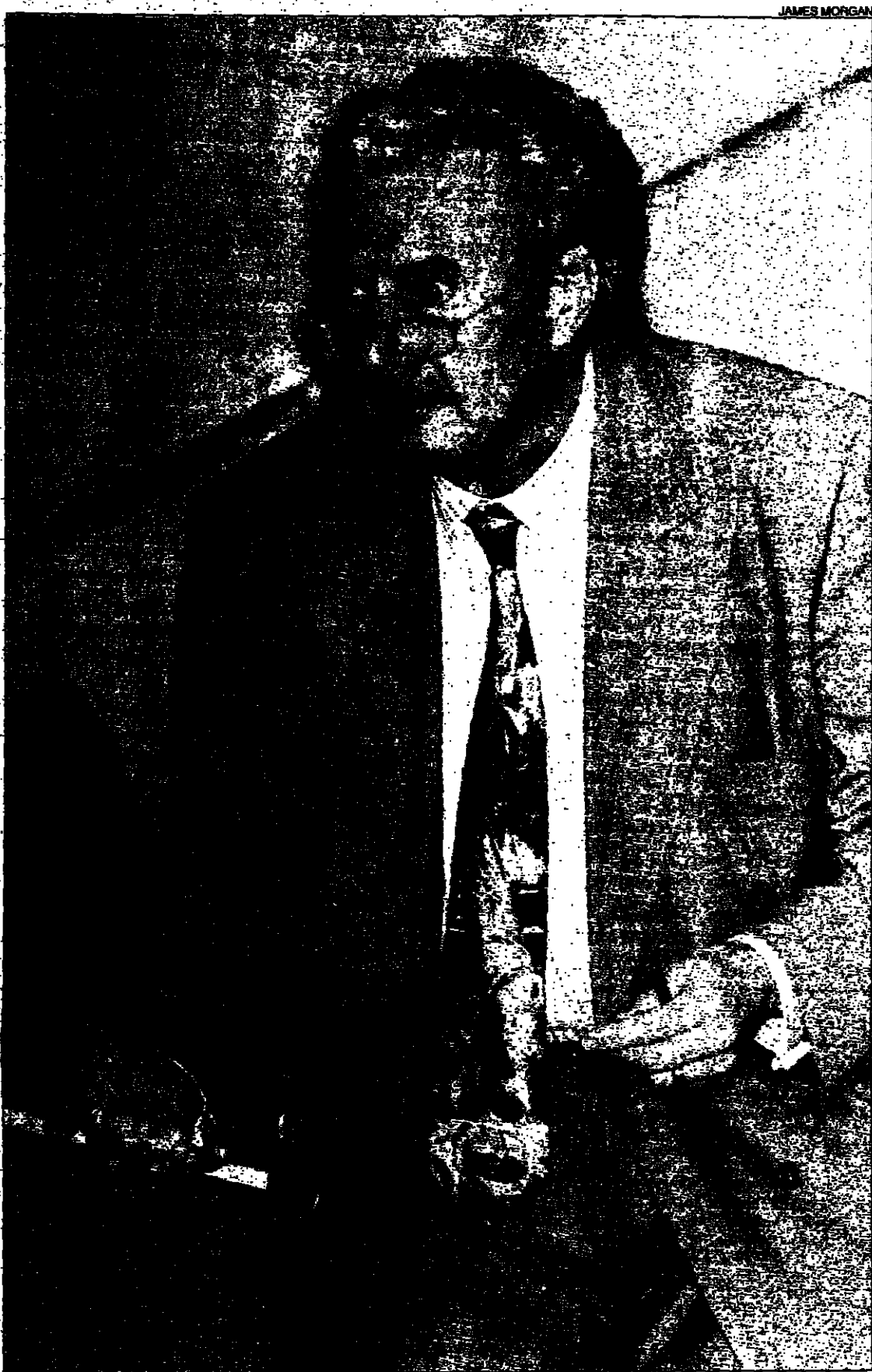
Why has it taken so long to kiss and make up? The answer says as much about the "new" LSO — as well-behaved as anything Tony Blair's spin doctors can dream up — as about Davis's complex personality. From its earliest days, under Richter and Nisch, the LSO has had a penchant for foreign gurus. It wooed Pierre Monteux with a 25-year contract when the French maestro was 86. It entered the TV age *con brio* under André Previn, then polished its continental chic with Claudio Abbado before tuning to Uncle Sam razzmatazz with Michael Tilson Thomas. And for much of the Seventies the LSO also rejoiced in a bad-boy reputation: carousing round the world's hotels with a libidinous swagger that made the Rolling Stones seem like a bunch of Cub Scouts.

That was long ago and far away. In recent years the LSO has manoeuvred itself into possession of the most secure public funding in British music (a pound-for-pound agreement between the Arts Council and the City of London), better salaries than any other British orchestra, a starry list of conductors and soloists, and a management that has the useful knack of attracting big audiences and sponsors even for comparatively adventurous concert series.

"It's a virtuoso orchestra without question," says its new principal conductor. "And because of its stable management, it can offer the best conditions for making music that London has ever had. The old belief in London was that you had to let musicians starve before you could extract decent performances from them. That's nonsense. Pay musicians well and they will perform infinitely better."

Only one thing was missing from the LSO dream: a conductor with the gravitas to produce great performances of the Austro-German repertoire — still the yardstick by which world-class orchestras are judged. Tilson Thomas did many fine things, but his Malibu-beach Bohemian was never going to make him a contender for Young Klemperer of the Year.

Davis has that gravitas. His music-making is admired by all except those who think that orchestral concerts should be like breakfast cereals, and go snap, crackle and pop with every mouthful. His concerts exude serious purpose, a quest for eternal virtues undertaken with old-fashioned grandeur. And his repertoire is broad but traditional: Mozart (definitely not in period style), Bruckner, Brahms and Sibelius are the mainstays of his first two LSO seasons. Even the two composers whom he virtually invented in the 1960s by his passionate advocacy — Berlioz and Tippett — are



Sir Colin Davis, rehearsing this week for his Barbican debut on Saturday as the LSO's new conductor

admired by Davis as much for their basic adherence to "old-fashioned musical principles" as for their visionary qualities.

But Davis has always combined this belief in music's traditions with an impatience bordering on contempt for the conventions and hypocrisies of the arts world — and this has undoubtedly done his career in Britain no favours. Abroad, he has prospered. The first Englishman ever to conduct at Bayreuth, he was reputedly offered the music director-

ship of the Boston Symphony Orchestra before Ozawa, of Cleveland before Dohnányi, and (more recently) of New York before Masur.

Characteristically he turned them all down and settled for long and comfortable associations with two grand old German orchestras: the Bavarian Symphony and the Dresden Staatskapelle. But the prestigious offers keep coming in.

In Britain, though, his profile was (at least until his magnificent Sibelius cycle with the LSO three years ago)

often close to invisible. Which was odd, when one considers that he once held three of the top jobs in our musical life: music director first of Sadler's Wells (now English National) Opera, then the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and finally the Royal Opera, where he succeeded Solti and — for all the achievements of his Covent Garden years — was constantly belittled by unfair comparison with that bustling, bustling figure. "There are various ways of looking at the career of a conductor,"

he says with a wry giggle. "One is that you have to survive one humiliation after another."

Don't underestimate Davis's determination, however. He is a man of rich contradictions: mild and mumbling in manner but white-hot in temperament; apparently at ease in his family bliss (seven children from two marriages), yet frequently wrapped in morbid thought.

He once confessed to the radio psychiatrist Dr Anthony Clare that not a day passes without him thinking about his own death — and this dark streak does shade his music-making. "Every piece of music is a rehearsal of one's own life," he says. "It comes out of nothing and disappears into nothing." When his

Every piece of music is a rehearsal of one's own existence

first marriage collapsed in the mid-Sixties, triggering a personal and professional crisis, he read his way back to spiritual stability with the staunch help of Hermann Hesse, Hermann Broch and Nikos Kazantzakis. Not names that you find on every conductor's bookcase.

Just as strong in Davis is the streak of anti-authoritarianism, which cannot entirely be attributed to his National Service days playing clarinet in the Band of the Household Cavalry. "Power is a beastly ingredient in our society," he says. He hates jingoism ("remember the quotation: 'humanity — nationality — bestiality'") and openly detests the "culture club" of bureaucrats running the arts in Britain.

But that contempt is mild compared with the revulsion he feels towards "all that charisma stuff" associated with his own profession. "I only took the LSO job on the condition that I wouldn't have any power," he asserts. "It's their orchestra, not mine: they must make all the decisions about day-to-day running."

So are we to be deprived of the juicy tales of strife between conductor and orchestra that so enliven the annals of LSO history? "I'm afraid so," says Davis. "It's going to be very, very boring. I can't play the tyrant, and in any case music-making is such a co-operative thing, or should be, that it can't possibly function properly when musicians are terrorised."

A famous conductor renouncing power seems about as credible as a champion jockey renouncing his whip. But Davis is a unique and perhaps anachronistic figure. He is also, despite the long-perfected camouflage of self-deprecation, a proud and passionate man. "I was a very wild and arrogant young man," he says, when reminded of the continual flare-ups that marked his early dealings with orchestras, not least the LSO. Then he pauses and smiles. "Perhaps I am now a wild and arrogant old man." Let's hope so.

Davis conducts the LSO in Berlioz's *Roméo and Juliet* at the Barbican, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Sat and Sun, 7.30pm

Berlioz in all his contexts

CONCERT

LPO/Norrington Festival Hall

IN A shrewd and enlightened programming move, the London Philharmonic Orchestra has invited Roger Norrington to explore the music of Berlioz in a series of five concerts (three this month, two next February) under the banner of *The Romantic Experience*.

Shrewd because of the evocation of those marvellous — and highly successful — "experience" weekends at the QEH with Norrington and his own orchestra, the London Classical Players: enlightened because it is fascinating to explore the influences on a particular composer and the context for his genius.

The format of Sunday's concert at the Royal Festival Hall bore many of the hallmarks of the "experience" weekend: the programme itself, with Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* prelude by works by Gluck, Beethoven, Spontini and Weber (Berlioz's four hero-composers at the time); Norrington's spoken introduction to these works; and the layout of the orchestra on the concert platform according to Berlioz's own ideals. This last made a remarkable difference to how one heard the music, even — or especially — in such familiar works as Beethoven's *Coriolan* Overture, or Weber's overture to *Oberon*.

First and second violins sat opposite each other like, in Berlioz's own phrase, "two opposing armies". Behind them, but facing directly towards the audience, the lower strings were much more clearly distinguished as independent lights rather than providing mere harmonic sup-

port. In the *Symphonie Fantastique* harps and timpani were divided on either side of the platform, the stereophonic effect adding much to the brilliance and excitement of the scoring.

Other concessions to the historically aware sound world included the use of wooden timpani sticks (which again make for much greater clarity) and a more sparing use of vibrato, notably in the sustained opening to the *Symphonie Fantastique*.

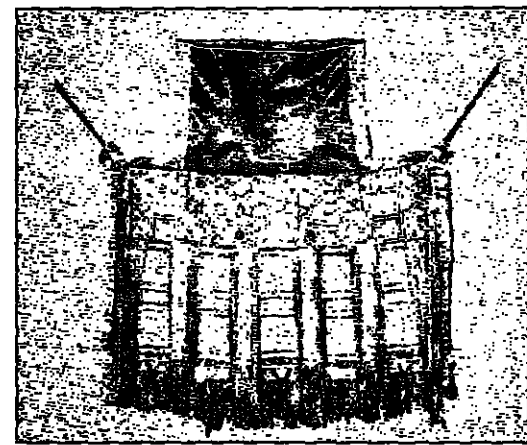
This was a compelling performance, with some wonderful playing, notably from the clarinets, and with Norrington bringing out every nuance of the orchestral colour that lends the state of constant emotional flux at the heart of the work its dramatic realisation in sound. The extra weight of the modern symphony orchestra made Berlioz's surging climaxes still more impressive.

Here Norrington was in complete control, whereas in the first half of the programme it sometimes seemed as if he and the orchestra had yet to resolve their differences. Rosalind Plowright also appeared uncomfortable as she sang extracts from operas by Gluck and Spontini, possibly suffering from the same hoodwinkedness that was afflicting the conductor in his mini-lectures.

TESS KNIGHTON

VISIONS OF AFRICA

A daily series of items featured in the Royal Academy's current exhibition, *Africa — The Art of a Continent*

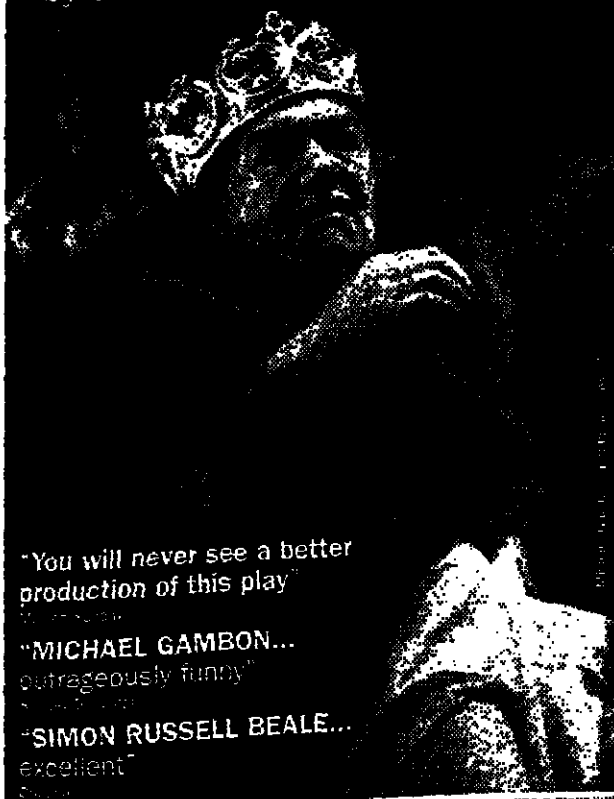


Bag, Tuareg, Sahara, 20th century, leather, 115x100cm

THE Berber-speaking Tuareg lead a nomadic life, herding camel, goat and sheep. Leather obtained from these animals is worked by women of the ruling Tuareg and artisan class, and is used for the walls of tents, some articles of clothing, harnesses and all types of container. Shapes vary, the wide body and narrow neck of this bag identifying it as a woman's travelling bag. The decorative motifs are all geometrical: equilateral triangle, circle, six-point star, zigzag, spiral and the so-called "Tuareg cross".

Volpone

by Ben Jonson



"You will never see a better production of this play"

"MICHAEL GAMBON... outrageously funny"

"SIMON RUSSELL BEALE... excellent"

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POP: Under-achiever Rickie Lee Jones wows the faithful

The best-kept secret in town

HER PRECOCIOUS and eponymous debut album, released to critical acclaim and significant sales success in 1979, promised so much. Over the ensuing years, though, a further six Rickie Lee Jones LPs — all of them engaging, some of them excellent — have met with less attention and fewer sales.

She continues to record and perform, though, albeit spasmodically. And this one-off acoustic performance — the 36-year-old American accompanies herself on piano or guitar — found her with a ready and enthusiastic audience. It is two years since her last collection, *Traffic from Paradise*, but a near-capacity Palladium awaited her in awed silence.

As on her last visit to Britain, three years ago, the stage is arranged in homely style: there are rugs, a battered table lamp, two chairs.



Jones: warm welcome for an occasional visitor

Flaxen-haired beneath a woolen cap, the singer starts diffidently and builds to strength. Among her opening numbers, both the comparatively recent *Altar Boy* Jones's

lyric, which details the conflicting pulls of religious belief and corporeal lust, is stunningly observed) and the early *Last Chance, Texas* prove apt showcases for her particular talents. The voice is wayward, bruised but beautiful. The songwriting, with its grasp of beat generation, jazz and showtune traditions, approaches the sublime. Exactly why it is that this woman does not sell more records?

It used to be said it was because she would not play ball by trotting out the old favourites, preferring to shake things up. But here she offered gorgeous versions of those veterans *Chuck E's in Love* and *Easy Money* without looking in the least as if she was having her teeth pulled.

Neither song represented her best performance, though. That distinction was reserved for *Coolsville*, by turns angry, desperate and tender as she bayed, growled and crooned it from the keyboard. She finished docile as a lamb, singing a song written by her father. There was no encore, just a bob back on to the stage to wave a further brief goodbye. Willful to the last, then, but still quite wonderful.

ALAN JACKSON

MOZART HAYDN
Queen Elizabeth Hall, RFH
Friday 20th October, 7.45pm
AMBACHE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
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Mozart: Piano Concerto in E flat, K449
Haydn: Symphony No. 46 in C
G. Tallaferris: Piano Concerto (1924)
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THEATRE 1

Nice sets, but an unfortunate hole in the acting in a revival of *Venice Preserved* at the Almeida



THEATRE 2

Cosy entertainment with a vintage cast as *Hobson's Choice* comes from Chichester to the West End

THE TIMES ARTS



LOTTERY

The revamped Sadler's Wells will provide a bigger stage for dance. But it will still not be big enough



OFFER

Save on weekend tickets to *King Lear*, starring Warren Mitchell, at London's Hackney Empire

Miscast hero loses rhyme and reason

THEATRE: Garbled lines and incoherent acting mar Otway's Restoration tragedy; Brighouse's classic comedy shows its age

This is one of those productions that is at its best before it begins. You cannot settle into your seat without admiring the Venetian columns, statues and arches of Julian McGowan's set or the yellow light that Peter Mumford allows to seep through its all-embracing grey. There is even the sound of water lapping against canal banks. But then, on come the actors, and within moments Otway's play is off the rails, never to get back on them again. You have heard of the old joke about performing *Hamlet* without the prince. There were times on the first night when I felt I was watching *Venice Preserved* without Jaffier.

Who is Jaffier? A good question, and one which some of those in the audience unfamiliar with the piece may still not be able fully to answer. He is the vacillating anti-hero, the quivering romantic, at the play's centre. John Gielgud took the role in Peter Brook's production in 1953. So did Michael Pennington at the National in 1984. If he is miscast, a revival is almost certain to fail, for more than anything else it is his journey that makes the play what it is: as fine a tragedy as the Restoration has left us. And what a journey it is. Hamlet's zigzagging seems lackadaisical by comparison. Jaffier is reduced to poverty by his bride's father, a vindictive Venetian senator. He is lured into joining a revolutionary uprising by his best friend, Pierre. He hands over his wife, Belvidera, as surety to the rebel-in-chief who tries to seduce her. Sicken by this and the chief's bloodthirsty rhetoric, he less her persuade him to betray his new comrades.

He quarrels with Pierre, is reconciled with him on the scaffold and comes to a suitably distressing end.

Back in 1681 Otway subtitled the play "a plot discovered" and, some think, hoped to appeal to a public still reeling from the Titus Oates fiasco. But the piece's cynicism about politics seems remarkably modern. Sleaze and bad faith typify Venetian rulers. Radical pique, the kind that passes off personal grudge as moral zeal, motivates some of the plotters. In this century we have often heard the voice of their leader, who would like to see gondoliers punting through piles of dead women and children, convinced as he is that massacre will bring what he is pleased to call "liberty".

But the most topical play needs to be properly baited if it is to hook us, and that is where Ian McDiarmid's direction fails us. David Bark-Jones recently made an excellent impression as a young gambling addict in Patrick Marber's *Dealer's Choice*; but that is a realistic play in prose, while Otway writes in verse strong and sinewy enough to have been compared with Shakespeare. From the word go, it is clear he just cannot cope. What is the use of exuding vulnerability and pain, as he seeks to do, if you are dropping consonants, emphasising the wrong words, gabbling sentences and generally making much of your vulnerability and pain incoherent.

As a result the best efforts of those playing opposite him — Alice Krige as Belvidera, John Woodvine as her father, the admirable Ray Fearon as Pierre — count for less than they could. How can they connect with a chap bleating at them in Esperanto?



John Woodvine and Alice Krige do their unavailing best to save Venice

Success comes only where it least matters, in a comic subplot involving a senator with a taste for 17th-century S&M. "Nicky nacky, purree, huzzey, let's have a game of rump," cries John Quayle's ludicrously grinning Antonio by way of charming an angry whore into playing beat-the-doggy with him. "Now thou art too loving," he gulps as Alphonsus Emmanuel's Aquilina gives him one kick too many.

Otway is thought to have based the character on Charles II's minister, the soon-to-be-disgraced Earl of Shaftesbury; but it hardly needs saying that he crosses the accents. You'll probably find him underneath a big black headline ("Nacky MP in Turkey Rump Romp") in your paper next Sunday.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Wells windfall falls short of the big issue

Even £30m will not give dance the London home it needs, writes Lin Jenkins

Sadler's Wells had one simple ambition when plans to transform its shabby, old-fashioned building were commissioned. This was to create the most technically advanced dance theatre in the world. The new stage, which will be built with the help of up to £30 million from National Lottery funds, has been designed for dance in the expectation that some of the world's top companies would be persuaded to visit. Sadler's Wells believes its £40 million plan (the remaining £10 million will have to be raised by the theatre itself) meets the stated aim of having "a near-perfect dance stage and auditorium". The reconstruction calls for the virtual demolition of the existing 1931 structure.

The scheme is good news for dance in the capital since, for the first time in its history, Sadler's Wells will have a stage large enough to accommodate the majority of dance companies while also having a seating capacity — maximum 1,600 — that is ideal for all but the biggest companies. Rambert, for example, which abandoned London years ago because of the lack of a suitable venue, could be happy in the rebuilt theatre, while many other middle-scale companies from Europe and America could also find a home there.

What Sadler's Wells will not do is solve the need for a large-scale venue capable of housing such gargantuan companies as the Paris Opera Ballet, the Kirov and New York City Ballet. "The new Sadler's Wells will never be able to seat enough people to make it financially viable for the largest international companies to have seasons there," says Debra Crane, dance critic of *The Times*. "Companies like that

will close next spring and reopen in the autumn of 1998. The new stage will be twice the size of the existing one. The architects say they have chosen a square 15-metre stage so that all the dancers can be seen, rather than a near-triangular shape which is more fitting for theatre or opera. The proposed stage will also have run-off areas enabling running dancers to pull up slowly without risking injury. In the past many have stopped simply by hitting the walls.

The English National Ballet, which faces a chronic problem of where to perform in London, has welcomed the Sadler's Wells announcement, even though the theatre will not be able to meet all of its requirements. "It has proper wing space and good studios; they're really thought it through," says ENB executive director, Carole McPhee.

But she adds: "It will never answer the question of a main-stage dance house to bring in the large companies, including us. We couldn't do *Nurcracker* at Christmas because we need at least 2,000 seats to make money on it. The ideal place for us would be a purpose-built theatre on the South Bank." However, the decision to pour lottery money into the Sadler's Wells redevelopment effectively ends any hope that public funding will ever be found to construct a large purpose-built dance theatre in London. The existing Sadler's Wells

Nick Thompson of the Renton, Howard, Wood, Levine partnership, who heads the design team, says they are removing the existing proscenium arch which has severely restricted the view. Indeed, Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet cited it as one of its main reasons for leaving the theatre five years ago in favour of a new home in Birmingham.

The whole of the seating area will be rectangular, so that every member of the audience looks straight at the stage. The number of seats will vary from 950 when the rear section is closed off (to allow intimacy for performances by small companies) to a maximum of 1,600. Electronic sensors will allow the dancers to control the lighting cues directly by their movements. This technology would improve synchronisation and greatly increase the number of lighting cues in a performance.

The orchestra pit will be extended to hold 100 musicians, and new dressing rooms will cater for up to 120 artists. Four new rehearsal rooms are to be built, along with new, spacious glass-fronted public foyers.

The lasses are ruling the roost. In Harold Brighouse's classic comedy, which has now transferred to the West End from Chichester, Henry Hobson has three daughters. This Victorian petit-bourgeois and bossy patriarch, embodied here by that huggable human warthog Leo McKern, assumes he can give the ladies Hobson's choice on comportment. However, Salford is seething with early feminism. Maggie (hard-nosed Nicola McAuliffe) and her younger sisters, capably getting on with running their father's cobbling shop while he is teasing back the toby jugs, are getting uppity. They unite against his chauvinism when he treats them like servants without paying them. In danger of becoming an old maid, but with a mean business head, Maggie then

Little bite in choice parts

Hobson's Choice Lyric, W1

sets about beating Hobson at his own game. In splendidly unromantic mode, she calls up her father's underpaid prize shoemaker, Will Mossop, from his workshop in the basement and proposes to him. She bullies the poor lad into a working/wedding partnership, though she later educates him to be his own (and her) master. Meanwhile she diddles her tightfisted father into forking out to her sisters' fiancés, and eventually Will steps into Hobson's shoes. The piece, perhaps losing some of its freshness since

boxes, displays of better-class button boots, and blown-up advertisements for Carlson's Patent Binder Corsets and the like. The whisky old gents of Frank Hauser's cast provide preposterously funny phizogs. Droopy-jowled Hugh Lloyd emerges from the employees' hatch like an earthworm in an apron. McAuliffe brings some zip with an iron entrepreneurial will but jaunty humour; her Maggie is somewhere between a nascent Margaret Thatcher and a Salford Cilla Black. Meanwhile, McKern snaps and snarls like a portly bull terrier with a throatful of treacle. The evening is costly amusing. McKern achieves some poignancy in the final act, but it lacks real bite.

KATE BASSETT

Lear's Empire

WARREN MITCHELL is bringing his "bouncing, raging, truculent, helpless, doddering, sardonic Lear" as Benedict Nightingale described his performance as Shakespeare's mad king — to London, and Theatre Club members can make big savings on weekend performances throughout the Hackney Empire. Produced by the ever-creative Jude Kelly, this *King Lear* had its premiere at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds, which has had considerable success in working partnerships with London theatres in the past. The Hackney Empire, for its part, is beginning to build a reputation as a home for Shakespeare. Ralph Fiennes launched his stunning *Hamlet* at this beautiful Edwardian theatre before going on to conquer America with it.

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TRAVELLING AND TIMELESS

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GLASGOW King's Theatre Oct 31 Edinburgh Festival Theatre Nov 8 ● SHARON MAUGHAN and Paul Shelley star in the Royal National Theatre production of Tom Stoppard's time-travelling comedy *Arcadia*. Members can buy two tickets for the price of one at the King's Theatre (normally £11.50 to £17.50) and the Festival Theatre (normally £15.50). Tel 0141-227 5511 (Glasgow) and 0131 529 6000 (Edinburgh).

HULL Hull Truck Theatre Oct 25-Nov 18 ● JANE THORNTON and John Godber's new adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* is a fast-moving, contemporary and highly visual production that still remains true to Stoker's chilling and carnally sexual novel. Members can buy two

tickets for the price of one (normally £7) for all Tuesday evening performances. Tel 01482 323638

BLACKPOOL Grand Theatre Nov 28-Dec 2 ● IN A climate of sexual repression and Puritanism, a wilful young widow is euphoric in the discovery of love the second time round. But when news of her marriage reaches her obsessive and sadistic brother, he vows to destroy her. John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* is as sensational today as when it shocked audiences in 1623. Members can save £5 on top-price tickets (normally £14.50). Tel 01253 28372

EASTBOURNE Devonshire Park Theatre Oct 30 ● ARTHUR MILLER's gripping play, *The Crucible*, is the story of the Salem witch trials of the 17th century — and the McCarthy communist witch-hunts of the 1950s. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £9.50 and £10.50). Tel 01323 412000

CARDIFF Sherman Theatre Oct 31-Nov 1 ● EUGENE O'NEILL's *Desire under the Elms* is a story of fierce family rivalry and forbidden love. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £9.50). Tel 01222 23451

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● The winner of Monday's holiday to India was Mrs Susan Hartley of Frome, Somerset.

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TENNIS 43

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GIVE BRITAIN
CAUSE FOR HOPE

SPORT

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18 1995

SIMON BARNES 46

TIME TO REFLECT
ON COURAGE IN
SHADOW OF DEATH

Scottish side succumb to Bayern

Raith's dream shattered by Klinsmann

Raith Rovers 0
Bayern Munich 2

By Andrew Longmore

ALL the brave talk of European glory for Raith Rovers counted for nothing against a familiar face at Easter Road last night. Two goals from Jürgen Klinsmann, one early, one late, gave a stark perspective to the fanciful notion that the little Scottish side might lift its European adventures into the realms of fantasy. The first leg of this UEFA Cup second round tie lasted just five minutes as a contest.

That Bayern Munich could afford to start without Papin showed the depth of the German club's resources just as surely as the presence of the official Bayern coach, complete with tinted glass and club crest, which had been driven all the way from southern Germany to Edinburgh for the sake of a hop from the airport through the city centre to the ground. The Germans clearly wanted to feel at home, but 11,000 Raith followers, whose double-decker buses had clogged up the Forth Bridge since mid-afternoon, were determined to deny them the pleasure.

The question beforehand was whether Raith could banish their sense of inferiority. Beating a known quantity like Celtic in a domestic cup final was one thing; taking on the three times European Cup winners, worth £500,000 in total to Bayern's £30 million, seemed an invitation to embarrassment. Jimmy Nicholl had encouraged his players to accept the difference in class, but not to let it develop into an inhibiting complex, particularly in the unfamiliarly opulent surroundings of Easter Road, the home of Hibernian. The early minutes would tell

the Raith manager whether his balancing act had worked. If his ebullient mixture of YTS recruits and experienced lieutenants had absorbed the pre-match message or if Klinsmann's exaggerated respect for a team he remembered watching on television had dissipated the understandable complacency in his Bayern team-mates. The Germans had sought the advice of the Scotland international, Alan McNally, one of their former players, in their research.

Nicholl bolstered his defence by playing Coyle as sweeper, matching the Ger-



Klinsmann: two goals

man's formation. But it took Klinsmann just five minutes to work that one out, sneaking a yard or two on Dennis, his marker, and lobbing Thomson, the goalkeeper, with deceptive ease after Herzog's intelligent long pass. The goal, greeted with a terrible silence, gave Bayern a precious chance to settle and heightened Raith's fears. On the touchline, Nicholl's nightmares were beginning to loom large. Raith's initial reaction was to retreat and preserve their dignity as best they could. But, slowly, they began to take

courage and press forward, long-range shots by Graham and Dair promising something better and pushing the German league leaders back.

A far-post header by Graham, hard won but lacking power, late in the first half brought Raith's supporters belatedly back to life and suggested a way forward for the Scottish Coca-Cola Cup winners. Helmer and Kreuzer had enjoyed a largely undisturbed evening until then.

Raith's dilemma now was whether to throw caution to the wind and go for glory or to keep some hope alive for the return leg. They opted, in the main, for the more cautious course and, as Klinsmann parried a clearance which fell to Scholl, whose shot forced Sinclair to clear off the line, that seemed the wiser way.

Raith's best work was being done by Broddie and Cameron down Bayern's right flank. In the 65th minute, only a brilliant and instinctive save by Kahn from a close-range header by Cameron kept the Scots out. The score remained the German aristocrats that they were still in a scrap.

The tie was put beyond all doubt in the 73rd minute with a goal of some class and great simplicity. Papin, on for the ineffective Scholl, set Zickler free down the right and, when he skipped past Sinclair's lunge, it did not take a palmist to read what would happen next. Klinsmann, as he did so often for Tottenham Hotspur last season, dummied one way, went the other and tapped home the near-post cross from six yards.

It would not have been much satisfaction to the gallant Scottish side to know that they were not the first to be caught that way.

Nicholl brought on the burly Rougier 15 minutes from time, but there was only pride left to play for by then.

RAITH ROVERS (3-5-2): S Thomson — R Coyle, S Davies, D Sinclair — D McInnes, D Lennon, J McNally (sub: Rougier, 75min), J Orr (sub: Crawford, 76), J Broddie — G Graham, C Cameron.

Referee: R Harris (France)



Man with the magic touch? Juninho, the Brazilian sensation, gets to grips with the Middlesbrough supporters at the Riverside Stadium yesterday

Teesside faithful get down to idol worship

Louise Taylor joined the Middlesbrough masses who gathered at the Riverside Stadium yesterday to welcome Juninho

JUNINHO may have been warned that illegal use of the elbow bounds in British football, but he could not have anticipated the need for police protection at his introductory press conference.

As Middlesbrough's £4.75 million Brazilian buy stepped on to a red carpet covering the centre circle at the Riverside Stadium yesterday, the 5ft 5in, nine-stone attacking midfielder from São Paulo was in genuine peril of being bowled over by a barrage of television cameramen and microphone-wielding reporters.

It took a protective arm from Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, and the swift intervention of a policeman to restore order and allow the 6,000 supporters congregated in the stands a glimpse of their new idol.

If the 50-piece samba band

was designed to make Juninho feel at home, the young man who later admitted to a love of The Beatles would surely have wondered why the Riverside echoed to the strains of "Are you watching Newcastle?" Sir John Hall, the Newcastle United chairman, would certainly have had his say at the subsequent question and answer session, but Steve Gibson, Middlesbrough's owner, demonstrated no such desire to dominate the stadium's main executive suite.

Gibson, at 37, a year Robson's junior but the man very much behind Middlesbrough's metamorphosis, merely shook his head when

Juninho was repeatedly asked, through an interpreter, how he would cope with the North East weather. "Come on gents, this is Middlesbrough, not the North Pole," Robson interjected.

Windy and drizzly Teesside may have been, but the maximum temperature yesterday was a mere five degrees cooler than São Paulo, where it also rained. Juninho returns there today to wait until his work permit is processed, something expected to take between ten days and six weeks.

When he returns, a council house would be his for the asking. Michael Carr, the chairman of Middlesbrough

Council's housing committee, said: "I feel Juninho definitely qualifies as a person whose job is important to the local economy and should thus be given accommodation."

In fact, Juninho will probably share a rented home in one of the Cleveland villages favoured by senior ICI executives with Oswald, his father, mother and sister.

Oswald rarely ventured far from his son's side yesterday and there is concern that the family's "security blanket" is overly, unhealthily, similar to that smothering so many young female tennis players. What if Juninho rebels? Is he tough enough for the FA Carling Premiership?

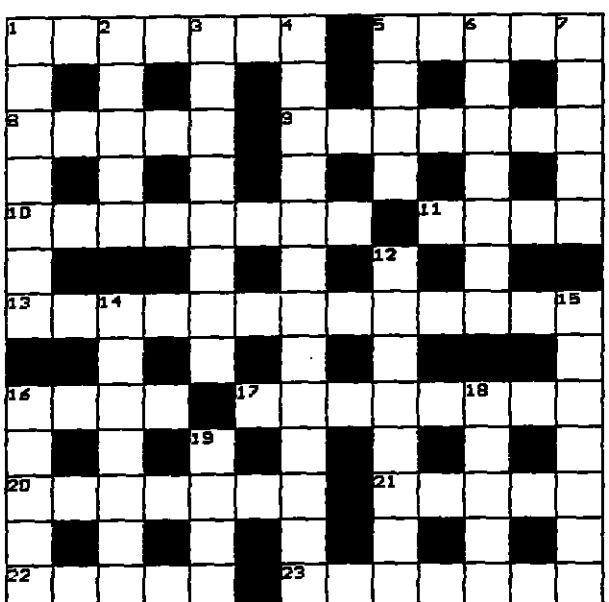
Some of the Middlesbrough die-hards who arrived at the Riverside at 6am, four hours before Juninho's emergence, were concerned by his apparently frail physique. This was precisely the sort of pint-sized player whom Robson, in his Manchester United and England days, would have had firmly within his pocket inside the first ten minutes.

However, the Middlesbrough manager disagreed. "Brazilian football is some of the toughest in the world," Robson said. "When I watched Juninho play for São Paulo, he was being man-marked by a beast of a man who was getting away with murder. Our referees will give him more protection."

"Juninho is a tough character who wants to be the best player in the world. I believe he can be."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 603



ACROSS

- 1 Pastoral, rustic (7)
- 5 Warehouse (5)
- 8 Mass, which-hunt city (5)
- 9 Result (7)
- 10 Obsequious black man (H B Stowe) (5,3)
- 11 Sheep-pen; bend (4)
- 13 (Spoken) not seriously (6-2-5)
- 16 Parliament; eat less (4)
- 17 Day of celebration (8)
- 20 Disapproving whistle (7)
- 21 Sign over Spanish n (5)
- 22 Stratum (5)
- 23 Sinning (7)

DOWN

- 1 Cookie; a surprising item takes it (7)

2 Severe abdominal spasm (5)

- 3 Loosen muscles (before game) (6,2)
- 4 Serrated electrical connection clasp (9,4)
- 5 Fruit; appointment (4)
- 6 Suggest (7)
- 7 Heavy football (5)
- 12 Transported by joy (8)
- 14 Round red road sign, white bar (2,5)
- 15 Francis —, 19C priest and diarist (7)
- 16 Of the highest rank of nobility (5)
- 18 Large house (5)
- 19 Twosome (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 602

ACROSS: 1 Bamboo 5 Mock 8 Drag 9 Cressida 10 Quondam 11 Amen 12 Addict 14 Engulf 16 Furne 18 Anarchic 20 Spoiling 21 Plum 22 Knee 23 Forget

DOWN: 2 Aground 3 Begot 4 Orchestra pit 5 Mustang 6 Cadge 7 Get the hang of 13 Henise 15 Leisure 17 Unpin 19 Caper

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 598

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Sister 4 Shop 9 Heavy 10 Verdict 11 Bolster 12 Siege 13 Switchboard 17 Moto 19 Handbag 22 Know-all 23 Nitre 24 Dupe 25 Cygnet

DOWN: 1 Sahib 2 Swallow 3 Egypt 5 Heine 6 Poetess 7 Over the hill 8 Fresco 14 Too bad 15 Rub it in 16 Smoked 18 Troop 20 Nancy 21 Greet

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Offer to Wilkinson denied

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Football Association yesterday quashed suggestions that Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United, had been offered the new post of FA technical director.

Wilkinson, widely believed to be among the leading candidates for the job of restructuring the English game over the next ten years, said that he had given the matter considerable thought since the weekend but had informed Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, that he had decided to stay at Leeds.

David Davies, the director of public affairs for the FA, said later: "In the light of recent statements and events, the Football Association wants to make it clear that nobody has been offered the job of technical director. Any implication by anybody that it has been offered to them would be absurd."



Wilkinson: happy to stay

The reality is that the views of certain individuals have been sought on their vision of English football at all levels. Any decision on the appointment of a technical director is most unlikely until the first month of 1996 at the very earliest.

"Any comment on the subject before then could only be speculation."

Wilkinson, who formerly managed Sheffield Wednesday and Notts County, has been at Elland Road for the past seven years, a period during which he has steered the club from the old second division to the Football League championship in 1992 and European qualification last season.

"I have decided I am not yet ready to hang up my track suits and boots; I am very happy at Leeds," Wilkinson said. "We have achieved a lot since I came here and I feel we will continue to make progress. I want to be part of that future."

Wilkinson added that, had the opportunity with the Football Association had arisen "four or five years down the line", his decision might have been different.

England must do without Edwards

SHAUN EDWARDS, the England captain, has been ruled out of the rugby league World Cup semi-final against Wales on Saturday (Christopher Irvine writes). He is hopeful, however, that he will have recovered from a knee infection in time to lead the side at Wembley on October 28, if England reach the final.

Edwards was injured during the win over Australia in the game which opened the tournament. The knee flared up badly last Friday and, although medical treatment has brought about some improvement, this is not sufficient for him to be included in the match at Old Trafford.

Bobbie Goulding, who took the scrum half role in the subsequent group matches, against Fiji and South Africa, will start the match on Saturday. Gary Connolly, who has missed all the group matches because of pneumonia, resumed training this week, but is still rated very doubtful for the semi-final.

John Bentley, the Halifax wing, is having treatment for a hamstring injury, and Phil Larder, the England coach, has delayed the announcement of his side until tomorrow. "We are giving players another 24 hours to prove their fitness," he said. "I just want to give everyone a little longer before I finalise my plans."

The Welsh have serious injury problems of their own. Jon Devereux has had surgery on a lacerated knee and Neil Cowie, the prop, damaged ankle ligaments in the win over Western Samoa. Both are highly doubtful starters.

Simon Barnes, page 46

Brazilian dies after crash

MARCO CAMPOS, the Brazilian Formula 3000 motor racing driver, died in hospital in Paris yesterday after a crash at Magny Cours at the weekend, the manager of his Italian-based team said.

"He died this morning at about 1am," Adriano Morini, the manager of the Draco racing team, said yesterday. "We are totally destroyed. In despair." It is believed that Campos, who died in the Lariboisiere hospital, was the first driver to die in Formula 3000 since the series started, ten years ago.

The Lola driven by Campos, 19, hit the rear wheel of the car of Thomas Biagi, of Italy, on the last lap of the race on Sunday, cartwheeling several

times. The Brazilian sustained severe head injuries, immediately went into a coma and was declared clinically dead on Monday.

Morini, who also worked with Rubens Barrichello, the Brazilian Formula One driver, in 1990, said that he had discovered Campos and brought him to Italy. "I trained him myself," he said. "He was special. It's hard to compare him with other drivers, but he had a special talent. He was one of the best."

Campos, in his first season in Formula 3000, had lived with Morini's family in Italy.

The driver began his career in kart racing in 1988, winning all the Brazilian championships that he entered and, in

1993, won the Pan-American kart title. Moving to Europe, he then won the European Formula Opel championship.

"I admired him even though I did not know him well," Biagi said. "He was sure to go far." Biagi said that he had seen Campos coming up behind him while he was braking into the Adelaide curve.

"I thought he would follow me and brake," he said. "I stopped looking in the mirror to concentrate on driving. At that moment, he hit me. My car was badly damaged. His Lola passed over my head like a missile. I saw him for a second and my blood froze. Then I lost sight of him."

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